

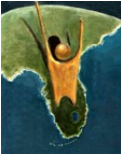


Vol. 6 No. 6, June 2017 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought

News



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* TB-CoR member

Coming in October....



THE FLORIDA HUMANIST CONFERENCE

Some of the Featured speakers **this October** include:



Eugenie Scott



Sincere Kirabo



Seth Andrews

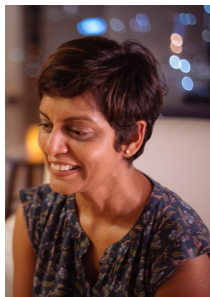


Ryan Cragun



David Silverman

& not one, but three! (count 'em 3) comedians!
October 20th to the 22nd in Orlando. Complete details are on the website: <http://www.freeflo.org/>. Register now for best rates.



Rafida Ahmed



Meanwhile at the AHA, Mythbuster, *Adam Savage* is this year's Humanist of the year, for his consistent call for the use of logic and the scientific method as an approach to human problems. Our friend Herb Silverman gets the Lifetime Achievement Award.

See the full June, 2017 conference roster of speakers and programs at: <http://conference.americanhumanist.org/>



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

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

This publication online at:

www.tampabaycor.net

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

Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL

Volume 30 No. 6 June, 2017



Paul Ford of the Pinellas County Democratic Party Committee will speak on and lead a discussion of our apparently deteriorating government. While much of the news flow is concerned with ethical lapses of one sort or another, the policies both proposed and enacted on our behalf seem mainly designed to promote a large financial benefit to certain sectors of society. In the meantime, the natural environment and the social and physical infrastructure continues to degrade as it relentlessly marches to inevitable failure. But what can we do in our neighborhoods, our small towns, our busy lives, to ensure that we and our posterity will enjoy the benefits we have been promised, or perhaps even the continuity of civilization. Join the discussion. JP

Celebrating
30 Years
of
Humanism
In west central Florida

Remember:
“Bad politicians are elected by good people who don’t vote!”

As humanists, the condition of society in every respect is our responsibility. To the degree we can, we are obliged to guide people to use critical thinking, draw on the ever expanding base of verified knowledge, and to question the “common wisdom.”



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
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



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

Saturday, June 3rd at 2:00 PM

Many of us go to dinner afterwards at: [Marguerites Cafe](#) directly across from the Library.

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. **We need volunteers!** Write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.

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, June 11th
at 5 O'Clock at:

Golden Wok China Buffet

1410 Missouri Ave N
Largo, FL 33770 See [Map](#)

Restaurant Phone: (727) 586-0565

Great Conversation and good food, reasonably priced
<http://www.goldenwokchinabuffetlargo.com>

Laugh Lines Cop's way with words 06-17

These are actual comments made by South Carolina Troopers that were taken off their car videos:

1. "You know, stop lights don't come any redder than the one you just went through."
2. "Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch after you wear them a while."
3. "If you take your hands off the car, I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document." (My Favorite)
4. "If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."
5. "Can you run faster than 1200 feet per second? Because that's the speed of the bullet that'll be chasing you."
6. "You don't know how fast you were going? I guess that means I can write anything I want to on the ticket, huh?"
7. "Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I'm the shift supervisor?"
8. "Warning! You want a warning? O.K, I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket."
9. "The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?"
10. "Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy and corn dogs and step in monkey poop."
11. "Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven." *Thnx to Connie Purdum-Lynch,*

Humanist society

of the **Suncoast**

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc., & The Association of Secular Humanist Societies

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Meets Sept., December, April

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~*~*~*~*~*~

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,
click:

[Secular Therapy Org.](#)

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[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](#)

June 17th, 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.

JP

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



Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, & AHA
affiliate.

25.11.2011 - UNESCO Office in Tashkent

Humanism - a working idea at the UN

Climate change, ethical issues raised by the boom in biomedical and digital technologies, and the ongoing economic and political crises are all threats hanging over the future of mankind. If it is to rise to these global challenges, 21st century humanism will have to be based on principles of interculturality, say the specialists. Mireille Delmas-Marty, Mahmoud Hussein and Sanjay Seth are just a few of the specialists who provide an informed insight into various aspects of the humanist project which, for the first time, has acquired a universal dimension. Alongside the main feature, Antonio Skármeta shares his ideas on the future of the book. Our guest, Forest Whitaker, talks about his commitment to the cause of child soldiers. Read more on International Humanism:

The [UNESCO Courier 2011/4](#) - Humanism - a new idea.

Humanist Quotes

Humanism will affirm life rather than deny it, seek to elicit the possibilities of life, not flee from it, and endeavor to establish the conditions of satisfactory life for all, not merely for the few.

- Humanist Manifesto, 1933

THE LATEST GALLUP POLL ON EVOLUTION

"The percentage of U.S. adults who believe that God created humans in their present form at some time within the last 10,000 years or so -- the strict creationist view -- has reached a new low," reports Gallup (May 22, 2017). "This is the first time since 1982 -- when Gallup began asking this question using this wording -- that belief in God's direct creation of man has not been the outright most-common response."

Asked "[w]hich of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings," 38% of the respondents accepted "Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process," 19% accepted "Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process," and 38% accepted "God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so." Acceptance of the creationist option was associated with lower education levels, Protestantism, and weekly church attendance.

According to Gallup, the poll results are "based on telephone interviews conducted May 3-7, 2017, with a random sample of 1,011 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia"; the samples were weighted to match demographics. The maximum range of sampling error for the total sample was +/- 4%. Conveniently, Gallup provides a graph showing the results from its polls using the same question since 1982.

For Gallup's report on the poll, visit:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/210956/belief-creationist-view-humans-new-low.aspx>

And for NCSE's collection of information on polls and surveys, visit:

<https://ncse.com/surveypollsstudies>



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

Propagating Climate Science

If your views on climate action are mostly shaped by skimming the op-ed pages, you know plenty about Republicans' willful ignorance, intransigence, and sociopathy on climate action.

But you might not have seen many of the increasingly stark details of what preeminent climate scientists now suggest is possible—for example, that without rapid decarbonization, we may actually be facing sea level rise of [multiple meters](#) in the next 50 years, not just one meter by 2100. (a meter is roughly 3 feet. Ed)

You may not know that we're probably on track to cross the "danger" threshold of 2°C average global warming in just [20 years](#), not decades longer, as previously assumed.

You might never have heard that if we can only count on using proven technologies, the world must reach net zero emissions within a decade for a very strong chance of avoiding climate catastrophe. The longer we put it off, the more unpredictable the consequences.

That means a society-wide mobilization of the economy on the scale of the American [effort during World War II](#). It's quite a bit more aggressive than the fuzzy optimism of traditional economists. It's certainly more direct than platitudes like "climate change is real!" and "we should do... something!" It won't be easy, to put it mildly. But it's necessary, and at this point the main responsibility of principled people is to work to somehow [make the necessary possible](#), through whatever means available.

To different degrees, most columnists are entrenched so deeply in the narrow band of neoliberal thinking that has dominated mainstream American discourse over the past four decades that they are unable to absorb information that rubs the wrong way against a lifetime of received biases about political economy. They can't or won't seriously engage with the dire implications of climate science by considering how to build a politics beyond gradualist, market-based solutions. The result is that, instead of really educating readers about what should be done, they rhetorically teach them how to acknowledge the seriousness of the problem while effectively teaching them how to ignore it in order to preserve the status quo.



Solar Hope

Enough solar energy strikes the earth in two hours to power the entire world. But in 2015, solar photovoltaics generated only 1 percent of the electricity produced globally.

A new study takes a look at the barriers that need to be overcome for the world to generate terawatts of [solar power](#). Technical, infrastructure, economic, and policy hurdles are keeping solar energy from providing a substantial fraction of [global electricity generation](#), a team led by researchers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory says in the [Science](#) paper.

The PV industry is already on a trajectory to reach at least three terawatts of cumulative PV installations by 2030, according to the authors. Continued technology improvements, falling solar panel prices, and grid integration should bend the curve up to reach 5-10 Terra Watts.

Solar power is growing much faster than other renewables. Between 2000 and 2015, PV capacity grew by a factor of 57, while non-hydro renewables grew by a factor of about 9. Yet even the most optimistic forecasts for solar growth such as by the International Energy Agency under-represent the actual sharp uptick in PV deployment over the years.

Terawatt-scale PV will require flexible grids, the researchers say. Technologies that can shift load to times when there is excess electricity from renewables, interconnected transmission, and better solar forecasting tools will all help. The paper's authors are also optimistic about battery storage, which they predict will cost \$0.025/kWh by 2030.

Other challenges to overcome to reach 5-10TW by 2030? Increasing the overall demand for electricity by increasing the electrification of transportation and heating and cooling; and advances in all forms of solar conversion from solar fuels to desalination.

"Meeting these challenges will enable a viable trajectory for solar energy to provide a substantial fraction of the world's energy needs," the team writes. "The realization of this vision is both more urgent than ever and within our grasp."

Source: NM Haegel et al. Terawatt-scale photovoltaics: Trajectories and challenges. [Science](#).

Post Carbon Institute, 613 4th Street, Ste 208, Santa Rosa, California 95404
See the Humanist Society's environmental website at: 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. Our all-volunteer chapter covers 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



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

[Become a member today!](#)



CFI's "Point of Inquiry" Podcast Returns in June with New Hosts and Big Questions

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

Since 2005, *Point of Inquiry* has been engaging and enlightening listeners everywhere with fascinating interviews and conversations, over the years led by various different hosts.

Throughout its incarnations, POI has become a beloved institution of not only the freethought community but the wider podcast listening audience. In 2012 *Business Insider* declared it one of the Ten Best Podcasts, and in 2014 called it one of the nine podcasts "to make you smarter," alongside *This American Life*, *Radiolab*, and *StarTalk*.

The most recent team of hosts, Lindsay Beyerstein and Josh Zepps, have now moved on to new endeavors: Lindsay's new podcast is ReWire's *The Breach*, and Josh carries on with *We the People Live*. And now it's time for *Point of Inquiry*'s next generation.

Starting in June, *Point of Inquiry* will be co-hosted by **Nora Hurley** and **Paul Fidalgo**, bringing a whole new approach to this celebrated program. The new format will place its emphasis on *questions*—the kinds of questions that require thoughtful conversations with smart, insightful guests.

Rather than a single interview with one guest, each episode will seek input from a number experts, helping the hosts and the listeners find new ways of thinking about some of our deepest questions and most intractable problems. The point is, after all, inquiry.

Nora Hurley has been producing POI since 2014, and she'll continue to serve as executive producer as well as co-host (she's already guest-hosted a number of special episodes). Paul Fidalgo has been the Center for Inquiry's communications director since 2012, serving as spokesperson for CFI and writing the daily *Morning Heresy* news roundup.

Give a listen to [Nora and Paul's promo](#), where they'll introduce themselves and the direction for the next season of the show.

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!* The new *Point of Inquiry* starts June 12.

[In his book [The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman](#)] he concludes by illustrating his point with what could be best described as a prose poem about the magnificence of evolution, what Richard Dawkins termed “[the magic of reality](#)”, Einstein extolled as [the ineffable spirit of the universe](#), and [Carl Sagan celebrated as the reverence of nature](#). The poetic eloquence for which Feynman remains known, which hardly anyone has mastered since, except perhaps [Neil deGrasse Tyson](#) and [Brian Cox](#), makes for a beautiful read on par with [Diane Ackerman’s Cosmic Pastoral](#). Feynman writes:

I have thought about these things so many times alone that I hope you will excuse me if I remind you of some thoughts that I am sure you have all had — or this type of thought — which no one could ever have had in the past, because people then didn’t have the information we have about the world today.

For instance, I stand at the seashore, alone, and start to think. There are the rushing waves . . . mountains of molecules, each stupidly minding its own business . . . trillions apart . . . yet forming white surf in unison.

Ages on ages . . . before any eyes could see . . . year after year . . . thunderously pounding the shore as now. For whom, for what? . . . on a dead planet, with no life to entertain.

Never at rest . . . tortured by energy . . . wasted prodigiously by the sun . . . poured into space. A mite makes the sea roar.

Deep in the sea, all molecules repeat the patterns of one another till complex new ones are formed. They make others like themselves . . . and a new dance starts.

Growing in size and complexity . . . living things, masses of atoms, DNA, protein . . . dancing a pattern ever more intricate.

Out of the cradle onto the dry land . . . here it is standing . . . atoms with consciousness . . . matter with curiosity.

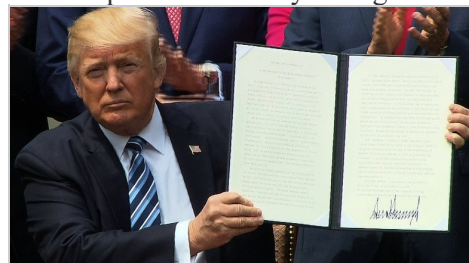
Stands at the sea . . . wonders at wondering . . . I . . . a universe of atoms . . . an atom in the universe.

Full article: <http://bit.ly/2pGQcfl>

Their Religion Trumps Your Rights: The President’s Gift to Theocrats

This week we saw just how determined this administration is to appease the radical Christian right and knock gaping holes in the wall of separation between church and state.

President Trump signed an executive order aimed at weakening the Johnson Amendment, which prevents tax-exempt institutions like churches (as well as secular groups like CFI) from becoming de facto political action committees for political candidates. It also prSurrounded by Evangelical leaders and clergy from various faiths, Promises to ease the way for religious exemptions from the contraceptive coverage provisions of the Affordable Care Act (which the House voted to disfigure yesterday).



This was done in the name of “religious liberty,” but we know that what this is really about is religious privilege: letting religious beliefs supersede laws against discrimination and indoctrination, and sacrifice women’s rights and health to religious dogma.

The good news is that we are being heard! [Our official response was highlighted in HuffPost’s report](#), in which we called out this executive order for what it is: a gift to theocrats, based on a false premise. Our director of government affairs, Michael De Dora was quoted saying:

Despite the president’s claims today, religious leaders are already free to speak openly, and religious groups spend hundreds of millions of dollars per year lobbying, on all political issues. . . . Instead of bone-throwing to the fringes of the religious right, President Trump should listen to the vast majority of the American people — including the majority of clergy — who oppose politicking from the pulpit and support the Johnson Amendment.

Please support our work.

Earlier this same day, the House Oversight Committee held a hearing on the Johnson Amendment, where **Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi** asked to have the **Center for Inquiry’s statements added to the official congressional record**.

Let’s keep up this resistance. The attacks on secularism are relentless, so we can’t let up for even a moment. To stay active in this fight, we need your support...now more than ever!

[Donate or become a member of the Center for Inquiry today](#), and be a part of the secular resistance.



The Office of Public Policy (OPP)

is the Washington, D.C.-based advocacy arm of the Center for Inquiry. Our mandate is to advocate at all levels of government — including Congress, the Administration, and the United Nations — for policies based on reason, science, and humanist values.

The methods of the sciences are being challenged culturally in the United States today as never before. Despite the success of scientific naturalism in providing us with unparalleled benefits, religious fundamentalists and some postmodernists seek to inhibit free inquiry and to misrepresent the tested conclusions of scientific naturalism. This is a highly charged political issue -- both science and secularism are under attack. While a number of organizations lobby and work to defend science politically, only one organization works to defend scientific naturalism in all important areas of human endeavor: the Center for Inquiry.

Because the Center for Inquiry is the only organization broadly advocating for science, reason, and secular values, with an agenda entirely built upon the success of scientific naturalism, we are well positioned to enter the public policy arena. We are the world's foremost think tank of scientific naturalism and must address its defense where attacks have been most destructive and visible: U.S. law and public policy. We have been leading advocates in these areas, and have assembled a wide network of experts who can address the public-policy issues related to our agenda. We bring that network and expertise to the nation's capital.

The Center for Inquiry's Office of Public Policy serves as liaison to our nation's government, to see that every available means is used to defend and promote science, reason, and secular values. We work with lawmakers to effect legislative responses to attacks on science and reason. We submit white papers, solicited from our network of fellows and scientists. We provide rapid response via public statements and action alerts directed at public policy. We bring experts to testify in legislative hearings. We also delve into upcoming legislation, undertake appropriate research on bills that relate to our agenda, and coordinate press, legal, and scholarly responses to legislation. <http://bit.ly/2qPnvBa>

Our goals are to:

- Inform our members about pending legislation and policy decisions;
- Publish position papers to clarify our shared views on major issues;
- Work with coalitions to lobby lawmakers and policy makers;
- Identify sympathetic legislators and forge relationships with them;
- Provide experts to give testimony in Congress;
- Submit amicus briefs in relevant Supreme Court cases.

When one grows up, our invisible friend remains with us having now become god and religion. Faith in the still invisible, silent, unresponsive, but for many, comforting. Just don't think about it too much or your mind might accept reality. Perhaps the phrase "out of sight, out of mind" best applies. After all, since we create the gods in our own images, look around. Do you really want to worship the people you see? Still, don't we all talk to ourselves in our minds? That's my two bits. ~ Rick O'Keefe

Climate Science

To understand how to model the climate it is important to understand how the climate works. The better we know how the climate works, the better we can model it for weather prediction and climate change.

On these Climate Science pages, you can read about the [basics of climate science](#), how we [model the climate](#) so we can make meaningful predictions and how we use large [ensembles](#) of climate models to produce our results.

We have also put together a [glossary](#) of commonly-used climate science terms which are used on this website, a [Climate Science FAQ](#) and a list of [resources](#) if you would like to find out more about climate change and climate modelling.

Join our team and put your unused computer cycles to work for a better world: <http://bit.ly/2mX8sAG>

A Conversation with Richard

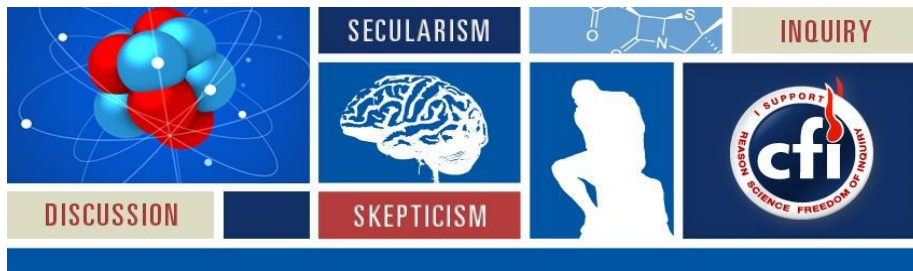
Dawkins—Reasonable Talk, CFI's video series featuring some of the best talks & presentations from Center for Inquiry events, is now in its third season with this episode from last year's excellent CSICon conference.



Click below

We made it easier! Please Support CFI Tampa Bay
Ready to put your humanism into action? Join now to keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, & become a member!

JOIN NOW



Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science



University of South Florida Humanities Institute

For engaging speakers & socials, check the calendar: <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!



Click for the June [link](#).

[Notable Person] is an incomparable voice for reason, with a wit and skill with language that is rarely matched. What is your favorite Stephen Fry quote about religion, atheism, life, the universe, and everything?

Want to suggest a Question of the Week? Email submissions to us at qotw@richarddawkins.net. (Questions only, please. All answers to bimonthly questions are made only in the comments section of the Question of the Week.)

Our favorite answer to each posted question will receive a copy of *Brief Candle in the Dark* by Richard Dawkins.

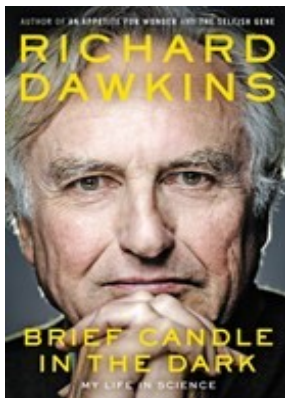


ROBYN E. BLUMNER: JOIN OUR TRIBE!

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Richard Dawkins' NEWEST book!
Exclusive autographed copy for only \$36.95 plus S&H. Few are left. Go to: 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!](#)



CSiCon is Returning to Las Vegas for 2017

Today you turned on your computer or your phone and Facebook told you that vaccines are an evil government plot, Twitter told you that the sun is revolving around a flat Earth, and the House Science Committee told you that climate change is nothing to worry about. Meanwhile, up is down, true is false, Oceania has always been at war with Eastasia, and dogs and cats may in fact be living together.

Enough already!

It's time once again for the forces of reason and science to come together; time for critical thinkers to connect, learn from one another, and sharpen their skills; time for the leading lights of skepticism to share their wisdom and rally the troops.

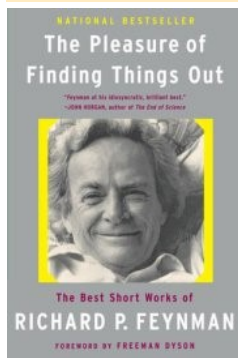
October 26-29, join luminaries such as James Randi, Richard Dawkins, Eugenie Scott, Richard Wiseman, Lawrence Krauss, and master of ceremonies George Hrab for *the biggest skeptics' event of the year*, returning triumphantly to the Excalibur Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, the city of illusions. CSiCon 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.

It's time for **CSiCon 2017**, back in Las Vegas. [Register now.](#)

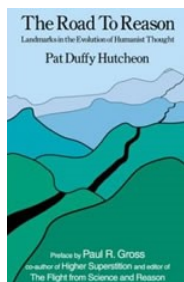
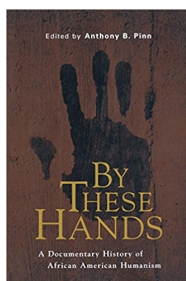
Recommended Reading

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



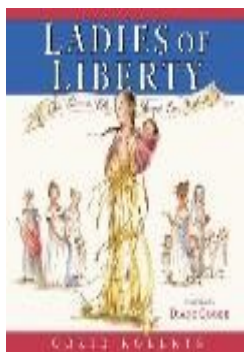
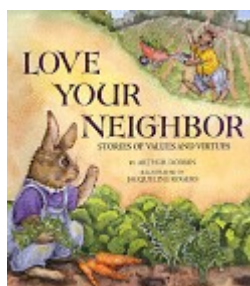
In [The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman](#) ([public library](#)) — the same indispensable anthology that gave us The Great Explainer's insights on [the universal responsibility of scientists](#) and [the role of scientific culture in modern society](#), titled after the [famous film](#) of the same name — [Richard Feynman](#) explores the capacity of science to be a catalyst for both good and evil, and the moral choices steering the direction of the dial

By These Hands demonstrates the crucial, often overlooked role that Humanism has played in African American struggles for dignity, power and justice. Pinn collects the finest examples of African American Humanism. Its embrace by a variety of prominent figures in African American thought and letters has served as the basis for activism and resistance to American racism and sexism.



Dr Pat Duffy Hutcheon, a sociologist, clarifies the nature and origin of evolutionary naturalism as a necessary component of modern humanism. Her latest book presents the ideas of some of the most prominent thinkers who have contributed to the evolving philosophy of humanism over the centuries. This is the naturalistic view of human existence, in contrast to the supernatural. From Buddha through Dawkins.

Love Your Neighbor: Stories of Values and Virtues, In this illustrated collection of stories, Dr. Arthur Dobrin invites both parents and children to explore the importance of values and virtues, as well as moral questions ranging from tolerance and prejudice to love. Aimed at ages 4-8.



Cokie Roberts's storytelling style is both relaxed and direct. Goode's softly hued portraits and vignettes employ curvy calligraphic lines in sepia that echo handwriting. This collection succeeds in emphasizing that many unsung women "toiling to make America a more perfect place for all of its people" left their mark well before the suffrage movement. Ages 6-10.

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 Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

#	TITLE	AUTHOR
1.	The Expanding Circle	Peter Singer
2.	In Gods we Trust	Scott Atran
3.	Why Evolution is True	Jerry Coyne
4.	The Second World	Panag Khanna
5.	Denialism	Michael Specter
6.	The Selfish Gene	Richard Dawkins
7.	Democracy Incorporated	Sheldon Wolin
8.	The Upside Irrationality	Dan Ariely
9.	The End of Growth	Richard Heinberg
10.	The God Delusion	Richard Dawkins
11.	All That We Share	Jay Wallgasper
12.	Sex, Time, and Power	Leonard Shlain
13.	Sex at Dawn	C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14.	What Liberal Media	Eric Alderman
15.	The End of Faith	Sam Harris
16.	Plan B	Lester Brown
17.	The Portable Atheist	Christopher Hitchens
18.	Open Society	George Soros
19.	Non Believer Nation	David Niose
20.	God on Trial	Peter Irons
21.	Natural Experiments of History	Diamond-Robinson
22.	The Missionary Position	Christopher Hitchens
23.	Life Inc	Douglas Rushkoff
24.	A brief History of Time	Stephen Hawking
25.	Breaking the Spell	Daniel Dennett
26.	The Philosophy of Humanism	Corliss Lamont
27.	The Quotable Atheist	Jack Huberman
28.	50 Reasons People Believe In God.	G. Harrison
29.	Mathematics and Politics	Alan Taylor
30.	Stealing Elections	John Fund
31.	The God Virus	Darrel Ray
32.	What Every American Should Know About World	Rossi
33.	Imagine There's no Heaven	Editors of Free Inquiry
34.	Hidden Order	David Friedman
35.	What the Dog Saw	Malcom Gladwell
36.	Sway	Ori, Rom Brafman
37.	The Better Angels of our Nature	Steven Pinker
38.	Letter to a Young Contrarian	Christopher Hitchens
39.	Hot, Flat, and Crowded	Thomas Friedman
40.	Gaming the Vote	William Poundstone
41.	Subversion Fable	Alexa KcKearing
43.	Evolution and the Big Question	David Stamos
44.	Why People Believe Weird Things	Michael Shermer
45.	The World is Curved	David Snick
46.	The Snow Ball	Warren Buffett
47.	The Moral Landscape	Sam Harris
48.	How We Believe	Michael Shermer
49.	Full House	Steven Jay Gould
50.	The Origins of Political Order	Francis Fukuyama
51.	Asimov's Guide to the Bible	Isaac Asimov
52.	Autobiography of Mark Twain	Harriet Smith, Editor
53.	Science Friction	Michael Shermer
54.	Genius	James Gleick
55.	Inevitable Illusions	Piattelli & Palmarini
56.	Demon Haunted World	Carl Sagan
57.	Being Right Is Not Enough	Paul Waldman
58.	Loser Takes All	Mark Crispin Miller
59.	Taking Back Politics	Cathy Allen
60.	What Happened in Ohio?	Fitrakis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman
61.	Autobiography of Mark Twain	Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62.	The Skeptics Annotated Bible	Various
63.	12 Vol Complete Works	Robert Ingersoll (Thks, J. Rhinehardt)
64.	On Religious Liberty	Roger Williams & Davis
65.	The God Makers	Baker & Hunt
66.	Inevitable Illusions	M. Piattelli-Palmarini
67.	Ain't Nobody's business If You Do	Peter McWilliams
69.	Bonk	Mary Roach
70.	What Money Can't Buy	Michael J. Sandel
71.	Financial Shenanigans	Howard Shilit
72.	Sex & God	Darrel Ray, ED.D
73.	Best American Non required Reading	Dave Eagers
74.	Reporting at Wit's End	St. Clair McKelway
75.	Corporations are not People	Clements
76.	Could I Vote Mormon for president?	Cragun - Phillips
77.	Culture of Honor	Nisbett - Cohen
78.	Rot on the Vine	Stenesh
79.	Thoughts of a Freethinker	New Kaye

* Essential works

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

For even more access to Freethought history & perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prah's Freethought Library. Contact fpahl@verizon.net

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



Tracy Thomas, Chair - Al Hann, President

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

See [AoF Meetup](#) 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

For information on current activities for this month, see our comprehensive web site:

<http://aof.ngo>

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: 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/>

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 tree educational programs for its members & the public. For additional information send your emails to:

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](#)



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/>



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

www.atheists.org

Bonus! Total eclipse of the sun.

Be there with friends.

More on this conference next month.

Tampa Bay Thinkers



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

June 12

Topic: What is Morality?

See our Meetup site: www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/ for more info.

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

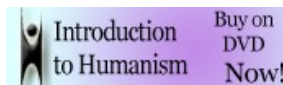
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a 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)
MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:

MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB

On the web at: www.maaf.info



USF Freethinkers

Join 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

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

Since the election, National ACLU went from 700,000 Facebook fans to more than a million. Thank you to all of our supporters, new & old. We would not be able to do the work we have ahead without you.

Will you join with us? <https://tampa.aclufl.org/>

We're on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aclufltampa/Column: Defending rights in Florida after this election>

Change our nation's libel laws to go after critics in the media. The day after the election, the ACLU of Florida staff met first to come to terms with our collective shock at the civil liberties challenges we are now surely facing, then to begin planning ... [Tampa Bay Times](#)

Get Bank of Wisdom—**FREE**.
Contact [Marios Psomas](#), Librarian

<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.



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 UU Humanists

Usually every 3rd 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

Bank of Wisdom
Electronic publishing to make the world better

Tampa Bay CoR

TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



The Secular Academy

The Secular Academy has new online classes at 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 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

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
Or see, <http://tampabaycor.net/>
Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>

A Strategy for success:

- For every event or action, ask why you do it, and decide if it's effective;
- Know your criteria for the decision as well as what defines success;
- Put your plan in writing;
- We have an obligation to teach who we are and what we do. Training and onboarding of new members is critical;
- Have a solid call to action for volunteers.

Thanks to ACLU and R.O.



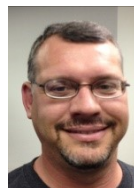
Toni Van Pelt,
ISHV



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

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – JUNE 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 RSVP: http://bit.ly/2qknFzB_CFI-TampaBay_EventsOnFacebook	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup	
1st Saturday, 2 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists Not this week! See Page 2 for details	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists	
TBA – various activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
TBA - numerous events—this semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary! Page 11.	
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required. Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members.</i> http://bit.ly/2qknFzB_CFI-TampaBay_EventsOnFacebook	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
4th Saturday, 10:30 AM;	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. RSVP is required. <i>Must have read the book under discussion to attend.</i> http://bit.ly/2qknFzB_CFI-TampaBay_EventsOnFacebook	
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers	
4 th Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	
2 nd Saturday plus various other times/venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/2qknFzB_CFI-TampaBay_EventsOnFacebook	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY AREA– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings & other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	



2018 Freethought Cruise With Annie Laurie Gaylor & Dan Barker

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