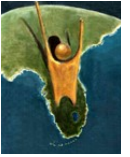


The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason



Freethought

News

Vol. 7 No. 7, July, 2018
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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Rick O'Keefe

Web site

Jim Peterson

Newsletter

Jim Peterson

Special Projects

Mark Brandt
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:
www.tampabaycor.net

See the full roster of the
Leadership Board
on Page 17.

This publication online at:
www.tampabaycor.net

Tell your senator



SAVE THE SUPREME COURT

FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

It has never been more important, nor is it too soon, to urge the U.S. Senate to stand firm in protecting the Supreme Court and our nation's civil liberties.

Yesterday, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy announced his retirement. Kennedy — nominated by President Reagan and confirmed in 1988 — has been a pivotal moderate swing vote on the court, enabling rulings that legalized same-sex marriage and preserved *Roe v. Wade*. Now it falls upon the Senate to decide on President Trump's soon-expected nomination for a new justice to the court. We are in grave danger of the Religious Right locking in a theocratic, hard-right majority that could last most of our lifetimes. Already over the past few years, we've watched our government slowly shift from the secular democracy our nation was founded on toward a Christian theocracy. **We must to do all that we can to resist this.**

Tell your U.S. senators to refuse to hold confirmation hearings until after the new members of Congress elected in November are sworn in and to fight vigorously to oppose any Supreme Court nominee who is not committed to upholding the First Amendment and the separation of church and state and upholding *Roe v. Wade*, marriage equality and other civil liberties. It is not too early to take action on this. Given the gravity of this appointment, the next Supreme Court justice must be committed to defending this all-American principle, so essential for a true civil society. TB-CoR endorses this effort. **Act** today!

In June the Supreme Court upheld President Trump's travel ban and gave faith-based crisis pregnancy centers the greenlight to deceive their patients,

once again demonstrating its willingness to defy the Establishment Clause. These rulings under-mine a founding principle of our country — that the United States government will show no favor or disfavor to any religion.

Americans of all faiths and none must recognize the danger of the majority's opinions. The Court's decisions are disappointing, but they are only small parts of a much larger fight against the flagrant religious favoritism of the Trump Administration. **It is up to us to elect lawmakers who will work to strengthen our secular government and embody our secular values.** The urgency of our political climate demands that we get to work building a movement that can create lasting, impactful, and sustainable change. We may have lost the battle, but we're going to win the war.

Get involved: See Secular Coalition page [16](#)



Freethought Radio moves to Friday Afternoons at 2PM

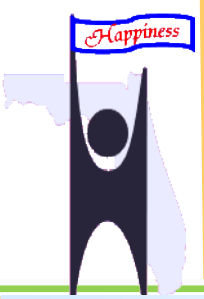
Atheists of Florida produces *Atheist Forum*, every **week** for your dining and dancing pleasure.

You will find a variety of subjects discussed, from atheism (of course) to science, politics, ethics, art and social culture.

The broadcast is available on WTAN-1340 and **on the internet at TanTalk1340.com**

Be sure to **call 727-441-3000**, with your questions and comments. See page [14](#) for more.

Check out twenty years worth of past programs of the Atheist Forum on our website www.aof.ngo And check into our channel at www.youtube.com for additional material.



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](#), & [ASHS](#). Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

Volume 31 No. 7 July, 2018

A Public Health Crises: the Basics of Trauma Informed Care



The fabric of human society has been sorely tested in the last 200 years. In 10,000 years of our evolution, no people have been more egregiously stressed than those of our time. With wars, population increases, environmental degradation, and major changes in how we live, our ever adaptable species has found itself lodged in a quagmire of anxiety and uncertainty.

But at no time in our history have we had the benefit of as much understanding of who we are, and how the mechanisms available in our inner life can provide us resolution and comfort in troubled times.

Hear more from our guest speaker, ...

JP



Victoria Hammer,
MSW. LCSW.

**Please
Join us in:**



Join or renew
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Annual Dues



- Regular -\$25
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin above)
- Life -\$200. (Pin)
- Life Couple -\$250.(Pin)
- 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 check made out to:

“Marios Psomas”

Memo line: “Humanist Society Dues”
(501c3, tax deductible)

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 and boxes to get the most benefit to the greatest number of people. But we can also use personal toiletries.
Thanks to *Jordan Williams*. **We need volunteers!** Write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.

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

**Saturday, July 7
at 2:00 PM**

Many of our members meet afterward for more conversation and refreshment not far from the library.



List of Fake News Websites:

Before you get too excited about an item you want to share or comment about, make sure the social media item is legit.

The list:

<http://bit.ly/2vvrXbb>



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

What is the Humanist Way?

- ◆ **To extend** a human centered approach to the critical problems of life & society.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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

Join us on Sunday, July 15th.
at 5 O'clock for good local pub style cooking, and decidedly the best company:

Chili's

For [map](#) [Menu](#)

5430 E Bay Dr, Clearwater, FL 33764
(727) 539-8596

Kindly RSVP to: **(727) 581-2146**
Great Conversation and good food, reasonably priced.

Laugh Lines ADMINISTRATIUM 7-18

Investigators at a major US research university recently discovered the heaviest element known to science. The element, tentatively named administratium, has no protons or electrons and thus has an atomic number of 0. However, it does have one neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice neutrons and 111 assistant vice neutrons, which gives it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by a force that involves the continuous exchange of meson-like particles called morons. It is also surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since it has no electrons, administratium is inert. However, it can be detected chemically as it impedes every reaction it comes in contact with.

According to the discoverers, a minute amount of administratium causes one reaction to take over four days to complete when it would normally have occurred in less than a second.

Administratium has a normal half-life of approximately three years, at which time it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion to the assistant neutrons, vice neutrons and assistant vice neutrons exchange places. In fact, an administratium sample's mass actually INCREASES over time, since with each reorganization, some of the morons inevitably become neutrons, forming new isotopes.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to speculate that perhaps administratium is spontaneously formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as "critical morass."

Peterson & Boling

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,
Lois Fries, Secretary
Dave Kovar,
Brad Perryman Vice Pres.
Jim Peterson, President
Frank Prahl,
Marios Psomas, Treasurer
Jordan Williams.

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~*~*~*~*~

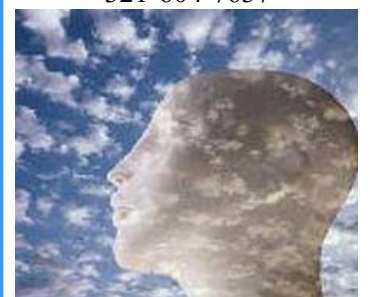
Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor
E-Mail us at:
jim@suncoasthumanist.com

**Need Psychological
Counseling?**
For a secular therapist,
click:
[Secular Therapy Org.](#)
[Cognitive Neurosciences](#)

Or call:
Lynda Gurvitz,
<http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/>
(727) 725-8820

Joel Schmidt
www.floatoncounseling.com
321-604-7637



Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

North Tampa Public Library

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

July 21st , 11 AM

Leaders: **Lucas Hopegood & Jim Peterson**

Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, & AHA
affiliate.

This month's Issue:

Existentialism: What is it and Why Should We Care?

No one can be completely sure what existentialism is, since its own chief thinkers disagreed about its tenets and many of them denied being existentialists at all. Among the few exceptions were the two most famous, Jean Paul Sartre and his companion Simone de Beauvoir, who accepted the label mainly because they grew tired of telling people not to call them that.

But if you're in the mood for a philosophical round that calls out your internal iconoclast from beneath the covers of paradox all the while repressing an overwhelming sense of nausea, than this may be your cup of tea.

Feel free to study up and bring what you think you know (if anything) to the table.



As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above and 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, and the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully & critically dissects a novel intersection of mind and 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. JP Learn more about the association at: <http://tampahumanist.com/>

Do No Harm

When the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) became law in 1993, no one expected that it would be used to allow religiously motivated discrimination against other Americans. Sadly, the religious right twisted this law to allow all sorts of religiously motivated bad behavior, which is why we were glad to see the Do No Harm Act (S. 2918) introduced in the Senate this week. In fact, the AHA is so supportive of this legislation that we are listed as an [official supporting organization](#) by the Senators who introduced the bill.

The Do No Harm Act would change RFRA by clarifying that it cannot counteract civil rights laws, employment law, protections against child abuse or access to health care. That means that RFRA would finally do what it was intended to do: protect the religious rights of all Americans while also protecting our civil rights and liberties.

You know what to do...

Humanist Quotes

7/18

“There is no humanist creed, no set of beliefs to which every humanist has to subscribe. Humanism is not a dogma or a sect...as human beings we can find from our own resources the shared moral values which we need in order to live together, and the means to create meaningful and fulfilling lives for ourselves.”

Richard Norman, On Humanism
(Thinking in Action)



An autonomous project of the Humanist Society.
Affiliate of the [Post Carbon Institute](#)

The End of Florida?

In 1890, just over six thousand people lived in the damp lowlands of south [Florida](#). Since then the wetlands that covered half the state have been largely drained, strip malls have replaced Seminole camps, and the population has increased a thousandfold. Over roughly the same amount of time the number of black college degree holders in the United States also increased a thousandfold, as did the speed at which we fly, the combined carbon emissions of the Middle East, and the entire population of Thailand.

About 60 of the region's more than 6 million residents have gathered in the Cox Science Building at the University of Miami on a sunny Saturday morning in 2016 to hear **Harold Wanless**, or Hal, chair of the geology department, speak about sea level rise. "Only 7% of the heat being trapped by greenhouse gases is stored in the atmosphere," Hal begins. "Do you know where the other 93% lives?"

A teenager, wrists lined in aquamarine beaded bracelets, rubs sleep from her eyes. Returns her head to its resting position in her palm. The man seated behind me roots around in his briefcase for a breakfast bar. No one raises a hand.

"In the ocean," Hal continues. "That heat is expanding the ocean, which is contributing to sea level rise, and it is also, more importantly, creating the setting for something we really don't want to have happen: rapid melt of ice."

A woman wearing a sequined teal top opens her Five Star notebook and starts writing things down. The guy behind her shovels spoonful's of passionfruit-flavored Chobani yogurt into his tiny mouth. Hal's three sons are perched in the next row back. One has a ponytail, one is in a suit, and the third crosses and uncrosses his gray street sneakers. The one with the ponytail brought a water bottle; the other two sip Starbucks. And behind the rows and rows of sparsely occupied seats, at the very back of the amphitheater, an older woman with a gold brocade bear on her top paces back and forth.

A real estate developer interrupts Hal to ask: "Is someone recording this?"

"Yes." The cameraman coughs. "Besides," Hal adds, "I

say the same damn thing at least five times a week." Hal, who is in his early seventies and has been studying sea level rise for over 40 years, pulls at his Burt Reynolds moustache, readjusts his taupe corduroy suit, and continues. On the screen above his head clips from a documentary on climate change show glacial tongues of ice the size of Manhattan tumbling into the sea. "The big story in Greenland and Antarctica is that the warming ocean is working its way in, deep under the ice sheets, causing the ice to collapse faster than anyone predicted, which in turn will cause sea levels to rise faster than anyone predicted."

According to Marco Rubio, the junior senator from Florida, rising sea levels are uncertain, their connection to human activity tenuous. And yet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change expects roughly two feet of rise by century's end. The United Nations predicts three feet. And the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimates an upper limit of six and a half feet.

Take the 6 million people who live in south Florida today and divide them into two groups: those who live less than six and a half feet above the current high tide line, and everybody else. The numbers slice nearly evenly. Heads or tails: call it in the air. If you live here, all you can do is hope that when you put down roots your choice was somehow prophetic.

But Hal says it doesn't matter whether you live six feet above sea level or sixty-five, because he, like James Hansen, believes that all of these predictions are, to put it mildly, very, very low. "The rate of sea level rise is currently doubling every

Continued on page 11

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

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.

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/>



The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, & 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

Some of July's activities are:

- ◊◊ CFI SHARE Book Club
- ◊◊ Thank Goodness 4 Godless Friday Nights
- ◊◊ CFI Sunday Skeptics Brunch
- ◊◊ Tampa Bay Tech Center Open House
- ◊◊ The Moveable Feast w. Humanist Society
- ◊◊ Howard's Skeptics Corner
- ◊◊ 2+ astronomy clubs' meetings
- ◊◊ N. Pinellas CFI Supper Club

And more at <http://bit.ly/2qEQuH4>

Subscribe to our CFI Tampa Bay newsletter here: <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l>, Then scroll down the page until you see the red section with "Receive E-Mails".

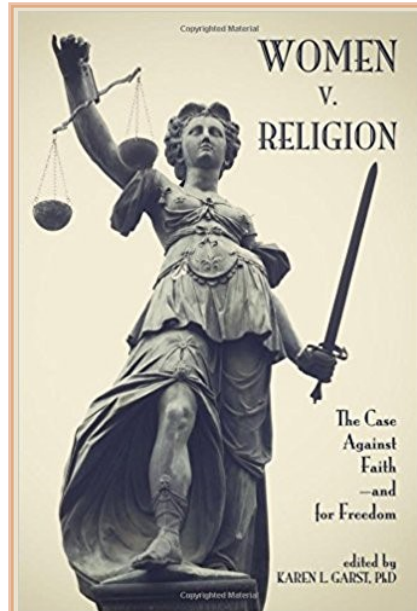


Founded in 2006 by Richard Dawkins, the foundation's mission is to realize Richard's vision to remove the influence of religion in science education and public policy, and eliminate the stigma that surrounds atheism and non-belief.

~ [See the latest from Richard](#)

~ [See the latest News](#)

Secular Rescue is a program of the Center for Inquiry that identifies those writers, activists, and everyday citizens in countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Iraq who live under the threat of violence and death. *Secular Rescue* then provides financial and diplomatic assistance to help these courageous freethinkers escape to safety so they can continue to write, work, and live. Last year, The Atlantic profiled *Secular Rescue* and its successes, calling it "[The Underground Railroad that rescues atheists.](#)"



Women v. Religion: The Case Against Faith—and for Freedom

Throughout history, religion has been used as a tool of female subjugation. Women have been deemed less worthy than men, have been prevented from owning property, and worse—all in the name of a higher power. In recent decades, women have made progress in terms of equal rights with men, at least in Western democracies, but still, why has the United States never had a female president? Why aren't more women heads of Fortune 500 companies? Why do politicians in the West continue to attack women's reproductive rights?

As this volume explores, it would be hard to find a bigger culprit than religion when identifying the last cultural barriers to full gender equality. With topics ranging from the subjugation of women in the Bible to the shame and guilt felt by women due to religious teaching, this volume makes clear that only by rejecting the very system that limits their autonomy will women be fully liberated from its malignant influences, not just in codified law but also in cultural practice.

In West Central Florida, our freethinkers are widely dispersed, but we can still form communities within a reasonable distance—IF volunteers step up to initiate local groups. CFI Tampa Bay will support you, but you must be willing to be responsible in being the face of a community. Form a book club, social gathering, lecture series on a recurring basis. Let me help you! Rick <http://bit.ly/2I9uaLr>



Did your CFI membership lapse?

Find out: please send me an email so I can check for you. **Include** your current phone & address with ZIP, please. I'll look it up & let you know.

Cordially, Rick
Mail:
<http://bit.ly/2I9uaLr>



16 years in Florida



Our New & Improved website: <https://CFITampaBay.org>. Please visit, then comment: what would you like to see?

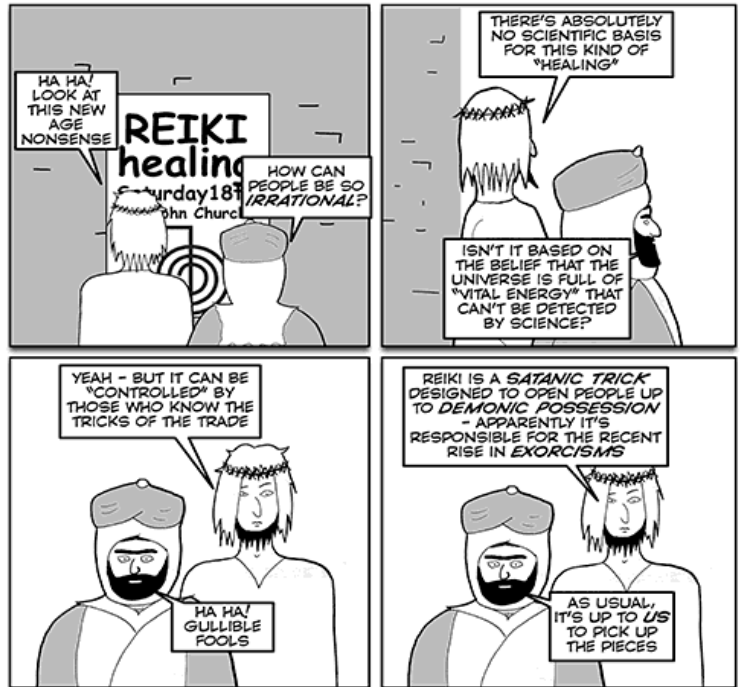
Take note: In this newsletter most graphics & blue text are links for your use. So **click** away!

POINT OF INQUIRY

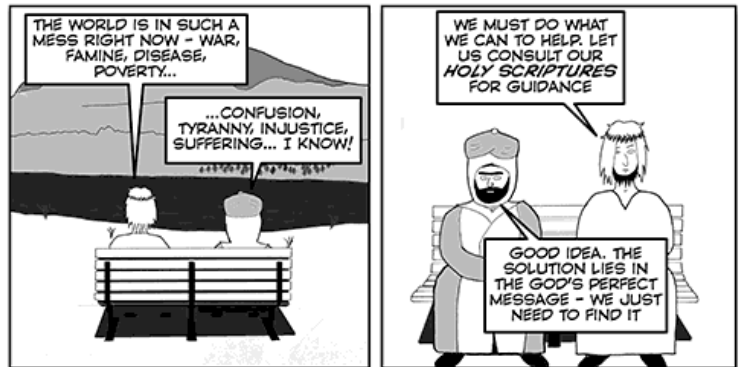
Point of Inquiry is the Center for Inquiry's flagship podcast, where the brightest minds of our time engage in deep conversation about the big questions in science, religion, politics, and culture.

[The Odyssey of the Plutophiles: Alan Stern and David Grinspoon on the Voyage of New Horizons](#)

Our guests are now telling this incredible story in the new book *Chasing New Horizons: Inside the Epic First Mission to Pluto*



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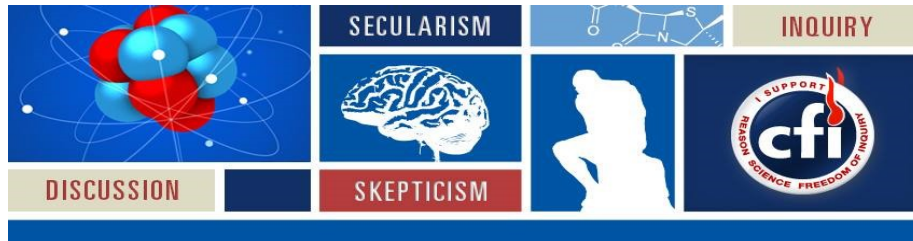
The Morning Heresy is your daily digest of news and links relevant to the secular and skeptic communities. What you wouldn't otherwise know.

"If we ever reach the point where we think we thoroughly understand who we are and where we came from, we will have failed." ~ Carl Sagan

Non-participation is a negative personal choice. Have you chosen to be positive?



Click below
JOIN NOW



CFI Tampa Bay is looking for folks who would like some activities near them, that is, within a short drive. If you live near **Seffner/Mango** or **Lutz**, please contact me to volunteer to be a sponsor. We will help you with whatever develops such as a book club, lunch or supper club, lecture series.... Let Rick know to get started. Without your volunteer and financial support – why have an association? It doesn't come free, it isn't a solo operation! Thanks!

Rick O'Keefe, Coordinator

Email: Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net

Congratulations to **Carl “Hominid” Schulz** for successfully hosting two pleasurable activities each month in Brandon! Both the Godless Friday Night–CFI Skeptics in the Pub, and the (equally godsless) Skeptical Sunday Brunch are growing and welcoming new folks who have never attended any freethought activity. They find out that socializing with like-minded people is stimulating and satisfying, without any fear of having to “watch what you say”. Thank you Carl!

Details: <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I>

CHURCH AND STATE

“It is not possible to find in any legitimate religious or historical writings compiled between the beginning of the first century and well into the fourth century any reference to Jesus Christ and the spectacular events that the Church says accompanied his life.”

The Fact Is... there is no extra-biblical evidence that Jesus existed, not one iota of evidence anywhere at all. Although there were over 40 major contemporary historians that produced a voluminous amount of literature in one of the most well documented periods of history, as well as the Romans who recorded everything, there is no mention whatsoever of the New Testament Jesus other than the New Testament Bible.

The following verses from the New Testament were devised to deceive us into believing that Jesus was a very famous and important person of the time, as he surely would have been had he actually lived and the things attributed to him were true.

... Read the rest here: <http://bit.ly/2M8KoXC>

READ THIS: TB-CoR's [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. So, sign up if you aren't already participating.

Why do evolutionists think creationists are not scientific when creationists examine the same scientific facts but just come to different conclusions?

By [Caroline Dowle](#). Source: Quora article: <http://bit.ly/2spQOtF>

Do you have any idea of the impact that creation science is making in the field of human knowledge? Do you know of any practical applications coming out of creation science that can be used to improve the human condition? Have you heard of any new discoveries made by creation scientists? Out of all the research being done by creation scientists, how much of it is contributing to the betterment of mankind? <http://bit.ly/2spQOtF>

John Steinbeck on Good and Evil, the Necessary Contradictions of the Human Nature, and Our Grounds for Lucid Hope

“All the goodness and the heroisms will rise up again, then be cut down again and rise up. It isn’t that the evil thing wins — it never will — but that it doesn’t die.”

[Maria Popova](#) writes, “There are events in our personal lives and our collective history that seem categorically irredeemable, moments in which the grounds for gratefulness and hope have sunk so far below the sea level of sorrow that we have ceased to believe



they exist. But we have within us the consecrating capacity to rise above those moments and behold the bigger picture in all of its complexity, complementarity, and temporal sweep, and to find in what we see not illusory consolation but the truest comfort there is: that of perspective.”

In our times when we need some optimistic inspiration, this from John Steinbeck, for your consideration:

“Speaking of the happy new year, I wonder if any year ever

I think skepticism is an antidote for nonsense –and there's always nonsense in life– and also it's the method for discovering what's true or false. And yes, we should use it throughout life. ~ Paul Kurtz, “Father of Modern Secular Humanism”

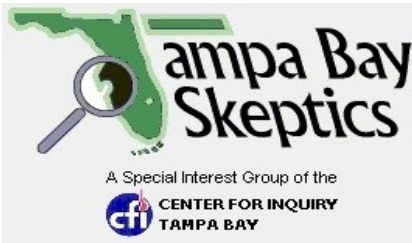
had less chance of being happy. It’s as though the whole race were indulging in a kind of species introversion — as though we looked inward on our neuroses. And the thing we see isn’t very pretty... So we go into this happy new year, knowing that our species has learned nothing, can, as a race, learn nothing — that the experience of ten thousand years has made no impression on the instincts of the million years that preceded.”

Popova continues, “But Steinbeck, who devoted his life to defending the disenfranchised and celebrating the highest potentiality of the human spirit, refuses to succumb to what Rebecca Solnit has so aptly termed the “despair, defeatism, cynicism[,] amnesia and assumptions” to which we reflexively resort in maladaptive self-defense against overwhelming evil. Instead, fifteen centuries after Plato’s brilliant charioteer metaphor for good and evil, Steinbeck quickly adds a perceptive note on the indelible duality of human nature and the cyclical character of the civilizational continuity we call history:” <http://bit.ly/2LPPFBI>

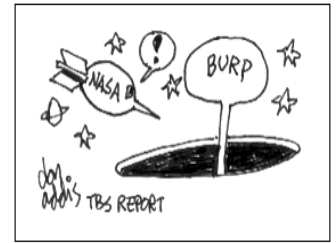
[The Center for Inquiry website](#)

has (finally) undergone a dramatic overhaul and redesign, aimed at making it easier for you to find the information you need to connect, learn, take action, and enjoy the wide variety of great content CFI produces every day.

This week we debuted a new column on the CFI website, [Ask the Atheist](#). Each Wednesday, actor, comedian, and activist **Jim Underdown**, director of [CFI West](#) and the [Independent Investigations Group](#), will answer questions about atheism from believers (and anyone else), with the goal of opening a legitimate and friendly dialogue between the religious and the secular. “Look, just because people hold mind-blowingly different beliefs from each other doesn’t mean that they have to hate each other or consider themselves at war,” says Jim. His first column deals with the definition of God, “hating” God, and something to do with Homer Simpson.



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!](#)



Critical Thinking Approaches to Confronting Racism

The racial divisiveness and tensions that erupted this past year (and specifically in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August), resulted, predictably, in a maelstrom of opinions—informed and otherwise. Amid all the arguing over whether Nazis should be punched, if and when censorship is acceptable, whether President Trump is racist, the appropriateness of publicly naming and shaming marchers, and so on, one thing largely missing from the debate is evidence-based guidance on what psychology and sociology can teach us about what's effective at reducing racism and prejudice.

Emotionally satisfying reactions are not necessarily effective ones, and may in fact be counterproductive. Is it better to engage with racists or deny them an audience? What do we know about what is most likely to actually change people's minds? There's no panacea, but here are some strategies suggested by experts who have experience in productively confronting racism and prejudice.

Researchers found evidence suggesting that racial and gender biases can be reduced using personal engagement instead of hostile reactions; as a *Vox* headline noted, "Research Says There Are Ways to Reduce Racial Bias. Calling People Racist Isn't One of Them." Likewise, former white supremacists recommend that the most effective way to deal with racists is not to attack, shout down, or insult them because it just fuels their narrative of victimhood and gets them sympathy—even perhaps from those who otherwise wholly disagree with their views, such as free speech absolutists.

As Carol Tavris noted, racism and prejudice are thorny, age-old problems with many origins. There is no single solution, no magic spell that will bring everyone together. But—like any human endeavor—some evidence-based approaches show more promise than others. As Stephen Pinker and Michael Shermer argue in their books *The Better Angels of Our Nature* and *The Moral Arc*, respectively, the overall historical trends for humanity are encouraging, toward a more peaceful and more cooperative world. Perhaps by applying evidence-based strategies we can nudge that progress along.

Benjamin Radford

String Theory

String walks into a bar.
The bartender says "Hey, we don't serve strings like you. Get out!"
String goes outside, ties himself into a knot and messes his hair, then walks back in the bar.
The bartender says "Aren't you the string I kicked out earlier?"
String says "I'm a frayed knot."

A mushroom saunters into the same bar. The bartender says "Aren't you a friend of that piece of string? Are you going to cause trouble?"
The mushroom looks at the barman and replies, "Hell no! Everyone knows I'm just a "fun guy".

... and loving it.



The [Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](#) promotes science and scientific inquiry, critical thinking, science education, and the use of reason in examining important issues. It encourages the critical investigation of controversial or extraordinary claims from a responsible, scientific point of view and disseminates factual information about the results of such inquiries to the scientific community, the media, and the public.



Continued from page 5

seven years, and if it were to continue in this manner, Ponzi scheme style, we would have 205 feet of sea level rise by 2095,” he says. “And while I don’t think we are going to get that much water by the end of the century, I do think we have to take seriously the possibility that we could have something like 15 feet by then.”

It’s a little after nine o’clock. Hal’s sons stop sipping their lattes and the oceanographic scientist behind me puts down his handful of M&M’s. If Hal Wanless is right, every single object I have seen over the past 72 hours – the periodic table of elements hanging above his left shoulder, the buffet currently loaded with refreshments, the smoothie stand at my seaside hotel, the beach umbrellas and oxygen bars, the Johnny Rockets and seashell shop, the lecture hall with its hundreds of mostly empty teal swivel chairs – will all be underwater in the not-so-distant future.

One of the few stories I remember from the Bible vividly depicts the natural and social world in crisis. It is the apocalyptic narrative par excellence – Noah’s flood. When I look it up again, however, I am surprised to find that it does not start with a rainstorm or an ark, but earlier, with unprecedented population growth and God’s scorn. It begins: “When human beings began to increase in number on the earth.” I read this line and think about the 6,000 inhabitants of south Florida turning into 6 million in 120 short years. “The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become.” I think about the exponential increase in M&M’s, Chobani yogurt cups and grande lattes consumed over that same span of time. The dizzying supply chains, cheap labor and indestructible plastic. “So God said to Noah, ‘I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them.’” And then the rain began.

I do not believe in a vengeful God – if God exists at all – so I do not think of the flood as punishment for human sin. What interests me most is what happens to the story when I remove it from its religious framework: Noah’s flood is one of the most fully developed accounts of environmental change in ancient history. It tries to make sense of a cataclysmic earthbound event that happened long ago, before written language, before the domestication of horses, before the first Egyptian mummies and the rise of civilization in Crete. An event for which the teller clearly held humans responsible.

Dig into geologic history and you discover this: when sea levels have risen in the past, they have usually not done so gradually, but rather in rapid surges, jumping as much as 50 feet over a short three centuries. Scientists call these events “meltwater pulses” because the near-biblical rise in the height of the ocean is directly correlated to the melting of ice and the process of deglaciation, the very events featured in the documentary footage Hal has got running on a screen above his head.

He shows us a clip of the largest glacial calving event ever recorded. It starts with a chunk of ice the size of Miami’s tallest building tumbling, head over tail, off the tip of the Greenland Ice Sheet. Then the Southeast Financial Center goes, displaying its cool blue underbelly. It is a coltish thing, smooth and oddly muscular. The ground between the two turns to arctic ice dust and the ocean roils up. Next, chunks of ice the size of the Marquis Residences crash away; then the Wells Fargo Center falls, and with it goes 900 Biscayne Bay. Suddenly everything between the Brickell neighborhood and Park West is gone.

The clip begins again and I watch in awe as a section of the Jakobshavn Glacier half the size of all Miami falls into the sea.

“Greenland is currently calving chunks of ice so massive they produce earthquakes up to six and seven on the Richter scale,” Hal says as the city of ice breaks apart. “There was not much noticeable ice melt before the nineties. But now it accelerates every year, exceeding all predictions. It will likely cause a pulse of meltwater into the oceans.”

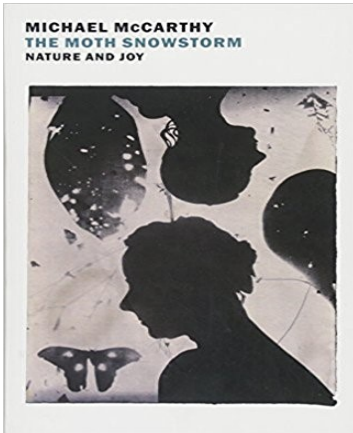
In medicine, a pulse is something regular – a predictable throb of blood through veins, produced by a beating heart. It is so reliable, so steady, so definite that lack of a pulse is sometimes considered synonymous with death. A healthy adult will have a resting heart rate of 60 to 100 beats per minute, every day, until they don’t. But a meltwater pulse is the opposite. It is an anomaly. The exception to the 15,000-year rule.

From 1900 to 2000 the glacier on the screen retreated inward eight miles. From 2001 to 2010 it pulled back nine more; over a single decade the Jakobshavn glacier lost more ice than it had during the previous century. And then there is this film clip, recorded over 70 minutes, in which the glacier retreats a full mile across a calving face three miles wide. “This is why I believe we are witnessing the beginning of the largest meltwater pulse in modern human history,” Hal says.

As the ice sheets above Hal’s head fall away and the snacks on the buffet disappear, topography is transformed from a backwater physical science into the single most important factor determining the longevity of the Sunshine State. The man seated next to me leans over. “If what he says is even half true,” he whispers, “Florida is about to be wiped off the map.”

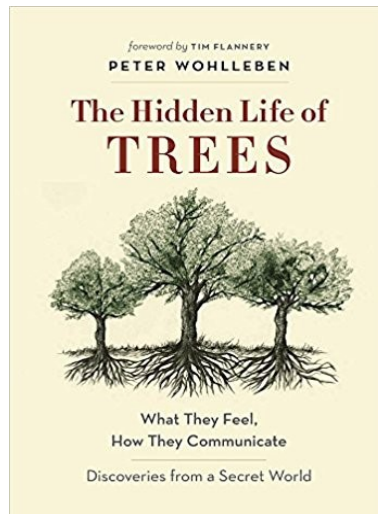
Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info

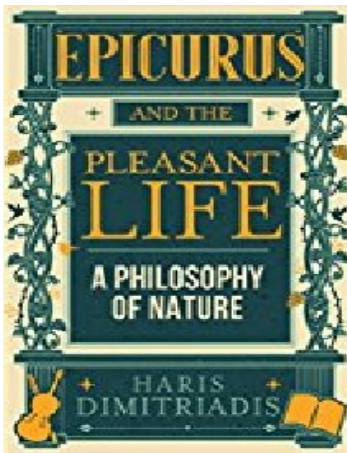


“It is time for a different, formal defence of nature. We should offer up not just the notion of being sensible and responsible about it, which is sustainable development, nor the notion of its mammoth utilitarian and financial value, which is ecosystem services, but a third way, something different entirely: we should offer up what it means to our spirits; the love of it. We should offer up its joy.”

“Scientific discoveries describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. Wohlleben also shares his deep love of woods and forests, explaining the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in his woodland.”



Based on a worldview rooted in the reality of senses, feelings, natural dispositions, life experiences, & perceptions, this philosophy teaches us to trust our feelings, & use logic to make decisions only after we acknowledge our natural desires. That way, we will find our place in the natural world, & learn to live simply & joyfully in the company of good friends.



The Matt Cooper

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

80. **An Atheist Stranger** Herb Silverman
81. **Candidate without a prayer** Herb Silverman
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 G.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 Piatrelli & 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. Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
63. **12 Vol Complete Works** Robert Ingersoll
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**

← New

Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought goodies:

<http://evolvefish.com/>

To access more Freethought history & perspectives,

Frank Prah's Freethought Library

fprahl@verizon.net

For your consideration...

A few Thoughts from the Religious Right's "Good Book" to help Illuminate the Path of our Dear and Glorious Leaders as they Work with Great Diligence to Diminish the Traditional Values of our Country.



Timothy 3:1

If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

Proverbs 16:12

It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.

Proverbs 28:16

A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.

Titus 1:7

For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain

Proverbs 29:12

If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked.

Proverbs 16:12

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 29:14

If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me.

Isaiah 1:23

Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them.

Exodus 18:21

Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

Proverbs 31:8

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Get Your Shingle Shots Now!

The Food and Drug Administration in 2017 approved Shingrix as the preferred alternative to **Zostavax**, which was approved in 2006. Both **vaccines** are approved for adults age 50 and older for the prevention of **shingles** and related complications, whether they've already had **shingles** or not. If you have already had the first vaccine, get the second; It's much more effective.

University of South Florida Humanities Institute

*** *See you in the Fall 2018 semester!*

For engaging speakers & socials, check the calendar at <http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities>
Many previous lectures are available on YouTube.



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 the top.

The Hotline Project

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UU Humanists of Clearwater

Usually every 3rd Sunday at 12:30 to 1:30 pm, after UU services,

at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.



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

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



Ed Golly, Chair - Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir.
Al Hann, Vice chair,

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 world-view 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



The Atheist Forum



Friday 2 to 3 pm.

The broadcast is available **on the internet at TanTalk1340.com**, live streaming on smart phones using the **“TuneIn” application**, and on the following frequencies in the Tampa Bay area – **WTAN AM 1340, WZHR AM 1400, WDCF AM 1350, WTAN FM 106.1, and WZHR FM 104.3.**

Listeners can call **727-441-3000**, where four lines await your call in of questions and comments. All programs are being archived on the AoF web site, www.talk.aof.ngo.

- ? ? Have something to say?
- ? ? Have a topic you'd like to hear about...
- ? ? Know someone you'd like to suggest to be a guest on our show?

Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org



I ❤️ THE FIRST AMENDMENT



Nonagenarian AoF life member, and ACLU Board member,

Jerry Moore

Rides the ACLU Honors car at the PRIDE parade on Friday June 22nd in the annual event. By the way Jerry is giving the encouragement salute, he never gives up on anything!



FOUNDATION BEYOND BELIEF

AOF is joining with other FBB teams to collect funds to help the Foundation make grants to address the needs of the children separated from their parents.



Help us

Help Children



Go to <http://bit.ly/AOFHelp>

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Canon 3020 - Print, Copy, Scan. Wireless, WIFI, 7 pounds. Includes ink, power cable and optional USB cable. MSRP \$99 with cables. My price: **\$49**Tx inc. Meet the PIXMA MG3020



Wireless Inkjet All-In-One, an affordable wireless printer for all your home printing, scanning and copying needs. Great features such as the Canon PRINT app, makes it easy to print up to 4800dpi Hi-Res. photos and documents wirelessly from your smartphone or tablet. It can even support optional XL ink cartridges. New, inc. factory Warranty.

Contact Joe Reinhardt at (727) 544-0414, or Email: wjr22@hotmail.com
Proceeds help support AoF! (you can too!)

Tampa Bay Thinkers



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

Monday, July 9th, 2018

Topic: Cultural Stereotypes

See our Meetup site:

www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/ for more info.

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

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**.

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



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 and vote on upcoming discussions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/> for more information.



Tampa Bay Technology Center & Thinkers Salon



We repair our member's computers - Free!

Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. Our new address is 2189 Cleveland Street, Suite 229, Clearwater FL 33765. [Map](#)

Check out *Thinker's Salon* a forum for serious social & scientific ideas & issues.

Find us at:
www.tampa-bay.org



Humanistic Judaism of Tampa Bay

Visit the **Meetup**, or email Jeff Lipkes

Get the Bank of Wisdom—*FREE*. Contact Marios Psomas, Librarian



The mission of the [Secular Coalition for Florida](#) 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!



SC wants *you* to represent the voice of thousands of people of reason in the halls of power.

As our government undergoes its seemingly perpetual crises, 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.

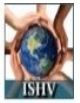


[ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay](#)

The Supreme Court has rubber-stamped Ohio's voter suppression tactics in *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*. The decision gives Ohio the power to target voters who miss just one election cycle for removal from the rolls. This is despite the National Voter Registration Act's express prohibition on purging voters just because they don't vote.

This decision is a gutting reminder that the Trump administration is determined to turn back the clock on our voting rights. For decades, the Justice Department maintained this type of voter purge was illegal, but under the Trump administration and Attorney General Sessions, the department switched sides and supported Ohio's unnecessary restrictions on the right to vote.

In the face of roadblocks to the polls, we must exercise our right to vote now more than ever. We must vote for leaders who will make voting easier – not harder. We must vote like our rights depend on it.



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



Science you say? By Norm R. Allen Jr.

There was a time in the not-too-distant past when I believed that it did not really matter who became the President of the U.S. I was of the opinion that any moron could reach that position without any serious damage being done to the nation. However, President Donald Trump has quickly disabused me of that foolish notion. Trump is the most anti-intellectual, anti-science, hopelessly irrational, conspiracy-minded president in the history of this nation. And the damage that he could do to the world is truly terrifying. Recently, Trump has been in the news for his willingness to speak with President Kim Jong Un of North Korea about denuclearization. However, what has not received front-page news coverage is the fact that he has done so without the help of a White House science adviser. According to a story by Coral Davenport in the New York Times: Trump is the first president since 1941 not to name a science adviser, a position created during World War II to guide the Oval Office on technical matters ranging from nuclear warfare to global pandemics. As a businessman and president, Trump has proudly been guided by his instincts. Nevertheless, people who have participated in past nuclear negotiations say the absence of such high-level expertise could put him at a tactical disadvantage in one of the weightiest diplomatic matters of his presidency. ...

For more see: <http://www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/FP/ishv-projects/ishv-projects-pdf/Science-and-Trump.pdf>

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”

Tampa Bay CoR

TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

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, Sarah Levin.

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

Homeless in Florida to do without State Aid

While the Florida Legislature granted spending authority to the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) for services to homeless people, it did not provide language for the agency to actually use some of the money. The funds in question are part of a "Challenge Grant," recurring grants that have provided \$20 million over four years to organizations that serve the homeless. For years, the money has been distributed without incident. But this year, a glitch in the budget's language will likely leave millions of dollars unspent — including hundreds of thousands of dollars that would have gone to local agencies. The fiscal year starts July 1st.

Keeping up with Jennifer...

Thinking Freely

Speaking Out



Marriage is a partnership. The two people work together to secure food and housing and health care and if they have kids, to help raise and take care of and support the individuals in their family unit – however that is defined and however extended that family unit is.

This is a long winded way of saying – marriages require a lot of problem solving. All the time. Sometimes, we have disagreements on how best to solve our problems. Sometimes those disagreements are minor – like what color to paint the walls. Other times they are more pressing, like who is going to take out the trash or make sure the kid is picked up from whatever activity they are at.

Respect for the other person as a fully functional intelligent human being, helps us navigate those disagreements so that we engage in cooperative problem solving and don't devolve into arguments. People are often astonished that my husband and I rarely argue. It happens every once in a while. But mostly, we just enter problem solving mode and respect each other's ideas and suggestions.

Learn more about how to integrate compassion and your coping skills so that you improve your interpersonal relationships with [Living Made Simpler - the course](#)

Thanks and take care.
Jennifer Hancock



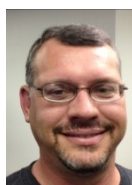
Al Hann
AoF



Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH



Mark Brandt,
UUCH



Chris Brown,
MAF



Jenn Hancock,
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS



Jim Peterson
HSS, TBPC

TBCoR Leadership Team 2018

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net CoR Facilitator



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – July 2018 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.



Various Sunday, 2 PM; & Friday night	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Night	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP: http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I	             
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/2ljTe9I	
1st Saturday, 2 PM see Pg. 2 3rd Sunday -Dinner see Pg. 3.	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists	
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/2ljTe9I	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
4th Saturday, 10:30 AM;	CLEARWATER – CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to <i>10 paid-up CFI members.</i> RSVP is required. Must have read the book under discussion to attend. http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I	
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/2ljTe9I	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings & other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	

2019 Freethought Cruise

Nassau-Cuba itinerary. For more details: freethoughtcruise.com. Departs Florida March, 2019

