



The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought See Pg 6 News

Vol. 3 No. 11 November 2014 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

What's Inside?

- Unified Calendar..... 2
- Humanist Society..... 3 *
- Tampa Humanists..... 5 *
- Florida Atheists 6 *
- Clr.UU-Humanists... 7 *
- Post Carbon Council.. 8
- Cooper Library..... 9
- Humanist Families... 10 *
- Tampa Bay Thinkers 10
- Military Atheists..... 10 *
- Ctr. For Inquiry..... 13 *
- Sarasota Humanists 13
- Coalition News..... 14

* Member organizations

Directory

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar
[Rick O'Keefe](#)

Web site
Jim Peterson

Newsletter
[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects
Mark Brandt



HUMANIST CHARITIES

[Click to connect!](#)

In December... Make plans for the

Humanlight/Solstice Potluck Social

Again, this year Freethinkers from around the Bay area will gather to share their best dishes and exquisite company. It will be **December 6th at the Clearwater UU social hall**. More details will be in next month's news. Special recognition awards for outstanding leadership. Special entertainment.

Winners announced for the *Freethought Essay contest* See details on page 4

Over 125 people attended last year's potluck. There's room for you.



Darwin Day 2015

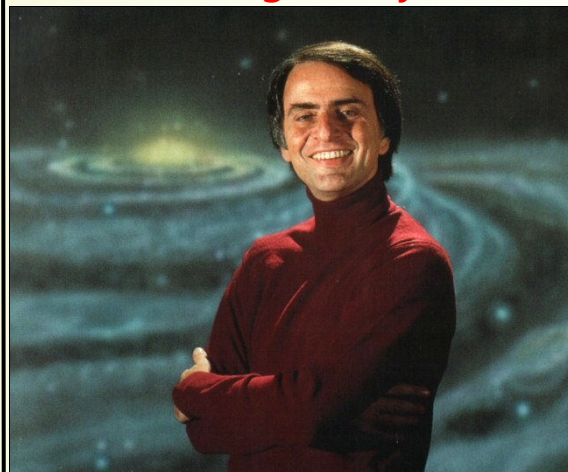
Will be on February 7th 2015 at the Octagon of the UU Clearwater Facility.

Speakers thus far include **Dr. David Lynn**, whose groundbreaking researches into the beginning of life on our planet have propelled him into the front ranks of biological science.

Also, we will hear from **Herb Silverman**, whose notable achievements in South Carolina politics are a source of encouragement and humor.

And, we will be able to announce shortly another person whose great accomplishments bring a greater and more useful understanding of the human condition.

Coming November 15th Carl Sagan Day



Learn more about Yourself and the universe you inhabit. A special occasion at the **Tampa Bay Computer Society**. 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater. See map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Dr. Jonathan Smith – Florida Citizens for science
Dave Dockery – Pres. Doc's Socrates Café
Dr. Jack Robinson, Emer.Prof. Astronomy FSU.
Jim Peterson Pres. TBPC on the Local & Global Environment from perspective of evolving universe
Members of **St Pete & Tampa Astronomy groups**
Big screen excerpts from the new "Cosmos"
The Sagan Day presentation will be followed by **Skepticon**: an opportunity to exercise your critical thinking. Hear and analyze novel propositions.

Several Telescopes will be available for viewing: SPARC will have a Solar Telescope.

Nov. 15th (replaces HSos & THA meetings)
12:30 PM to 5:30 Light snacks available.

Main Sponsor: **TB Coalition of Reason**
Co-sponsor: Tampa Bay Computer Society
Co-sponsor: Florida Citizens for Science
Co-Sponsor: Suncoast Humanist Society
Co-Sponsor: Clearwater UU Humanists
Co-Sponsor: CFI & Tampa bay Skeptics.

This event is free and open to all.



Center for Inquiry—Tampa Bay – November, 2014 Calendar



This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson. **Organizers of these events will be most grateful to all who have the courtesy to RSVP for those events that require it.**

11-09, Sunday, 1:30 PM

TAMPA- See page 6 for details
Atheists of Florida, Inc.

Details:
<http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/>

11-09, Sunday, 7 PM

BRANDON-
Brandon Atheists

Atheists in the Pub. **RSVP.**
<http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/>

11-17, Monday, 7 PM

NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD-
Tampa Bay Thinkers

Lively philosophical discussion. For topic, see page 10.
RSVP at Web site: <http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP>

11-15, Saturday, 12:30 PM
Carl Sagan Day/Skepticon

TAMPA-
Tampa Humanist Association

Details: see our Meetup
<http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/>

11-15, Saturday, 12:30 PM
Carl Sagan Day/Skepticon

CLEARWATER-
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Lectures & discussions. To RSVP:
<http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/>

11-16, Sunday, 2 PM
Usually 3rd Sunday of each month

BRANDON- at Crispers 11019 Causeway Blvd.
Brandon, FL CFI Skeptics & Humanists

Lunch & discussion. Click to **RSVP**
<http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>

11-16, Sunday, 5 PM

Pinellis County - Humanist Society
Moveable Feast

This months selection: see Page 4

None until January
Usually 4th Saturday of each month

NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE-
CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)

Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read.
RSVP_: <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>

11-TBA, 6 PM

N. PINELLAS AREA-
CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper

RSVP is required if you are coming. *Seating is limited to 20!* Click here *before* midnight, Sunday.
<http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>

11-15, Saturday, 12:30 PM
Carl Sagan Day/Skepticon

CLEARWATER-
UU Humanists,

For regular Sunday meeting: <http://www.uuc.org/>
See page 7 for more information on UU Humanists

11-15, Saturday, 12:30 PM
Carl Sagan Day/Skepticon

CLEARWATER-
Tampa Bay Skeptics

Skeptical activities and critical thinking. Click to **RSVP**
<http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/>

11-15, Saturday, 8:00 PM

ST. PETERSBURG -
Astronomy Club

For dates, location, & and details:
<http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php>

TBA—see Facebook & Meetup

BRADENTON -
Humanist Families of Tampa

Family outings and other activities. See page 13
www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa
<http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/>

11-05 thru 26: see [Web site](#) for many events

SARASOTA -
Humanists of Sarasota Bay

Many events: Details: Web site
<http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html>

11-08 & 14, 6:30 PM & 7:00 PM

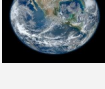
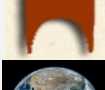
TAMPA - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club at MOSI

See **Website** : <http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/> for all details.

11-05 & 12

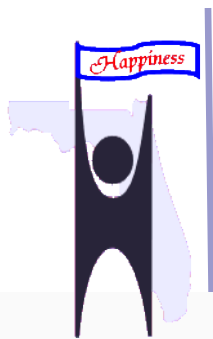
TAMPA- Humanities Institute at USF

See [website](#) for full listing of many great events and calendar. Many fabulous speakers all in one month! See page 7.



C.o.R. presents: A Carl Sagan celebration in November, Soltice\Humanlight potluck in December, and Darwin Day next February.

The man who is always waving the flag usually waives what it stands for.
Laurence J. Peter, educator and author (1919-1990)



The Humanist Society³ 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](#), and [CSH](#). Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

October 2014

Volume 22 No. 11 November, 2014

The **library space will not be available to us in November**. For that reason we urge you to consider coming to:

Carl Sagan Day on November 15th at the Tampa Bay Computer Society building in Clearwater.

And, because the annual Freethought Potluck Humanlight /Solstice day/ is on Saturday, December 6th, our meeting will be moved to that event. Our next meeting at the Countryside library will be on January 3rd.



Side Notes

Our **annual elections** have been delayed several times by library closings, but are now scheduled for the January meeting. If you would like to participate in the governance of our little group, just be nominated, or nominate yourself. You have to be a member for at least a year. The board regularly meets three times a year, and serves without pay.

As of this writing, our **web sites** are still unavailable because our stolen domain names have yet to be recovered. But we are actively involved in restoring them. Stay tuned.



Dr. Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Will appear at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center in **Sarasota, Monday, March 23rd, 2015**

- Host of Cosmos, an international, National Geographic and Fox television series
 - Astrophysicist and Director of the Hayden Planetarium
 - AHA Humanist Science Award Recipient 2013
- Sponsored by the Ringling College Library Assoc.



Food: the first kindness. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings.

An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. As reactionaries in congress vote to cut the budget for food stamps and other key supports, there is increasing hunger here in our community. Thanks to *Glenn Paul*, chair. Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance.

We need volunteers! See a board member. Or write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.

Please join us for this special meeting, Nov. 15th at 12:30 PM at

The Tampa Bay Computer Society Building

at 1510 Barry Rd. Clearwater.

Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Then, join us at the UU Clearwater for annual Potluck Dec.6th

Now is the Time to

~ Join or Renew ~

Your Humanist Society of the Suncoast Annual Dues.

- _ Trial –3 month– free news
- _ **Regular -\$25.**
- _ Reg. Couple -\$30.
- _ **Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin)**
- _ Life -\$200.
- _ Life Couple -\$250.
- _ Associate -\$10.



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

Name: _____

Address –if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: * _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

*Send tax deductible (501c3) dues to:
Marios Psomas, Treasurer
Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
1013 Connecticut Rd
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689*

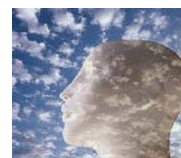
Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:

[Cognitive Neurosciences Inc.](#) or, [The Therapist Project](#), or, [Linda Gurvitz](#), or [Patricia Walters](#).

For Addiction Problems, see: [Life Ring Secular Recovery Meetings](#)

11485 Oakhurst Road
Waters Edge Club House Largo, Florida



Tampa Bay Skeptics
A Special Interest Group of the
CENTER FOR INQUIRY TAMPA BAY



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The Ivory Mandarin

Our feast is to be held at the **Ivory Mandarin Bistro** 2192 Main Street (approximately 1 block West of North Belcher, in Dunedin) Sunday, November 16, 2014 @ 5:00 P.M. \$\$ Chinese fusion cuisine! Learn more and see directions at the website here:

<http://www.ivorybistro.com/>

Moderate Pricing, Beer and Wine available.

RSVP!

Please respond by November 14 to CAROLYN FRASE at 727-533-2279 or frasec@aol.com

Laugh Lines Human Fails...

10-14

SIGHTING 1

I handed the teller @ my bank a withdrawal slip for \$400.00 I said "May I have large bills, please" She looked at me and said "I'm sorry sir, all the bills are the same size."

SIGHTING 2

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'it's open!' His reply: 'I know. I already got that side.'

SIGHTING 3

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Nurks repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Nurks made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, 'NO, it's not.' Four is larger than two.' We haven't used Nurks repair since.

SIGHTING 4

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, 'you gave me too much money.' I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back. She sighed and went to get the manager, who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said 'We're sorry but we could not do that kind of thing.' The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change.

11/14

Thanks to: *E. Rottenberg & R. O'Keefe*

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

Lois Fries, Secretary
Anita Garcia
Dave Kovar, Vice President
Beth Maxie
Jim Peterson, President
Frank Prah
Marios Psomas, treasurer
Jordan Williams

Emeritus members: Terry Eckstein,
Steve Brown, Jon Green, Mark Kligman,
Jerry Moore, Mark Winterbottom,
Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn
Paul, Don Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch,
Dec. Jackie Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike
Hubbard, Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

UnitedCoR
United Coalition of Reason



Tampa Bay Freethought Essay Contest

Some particulars:

- **Open to all young people 12 to 18.**
- **Closes Midnight 11-23-14**
- **More than 300, less than 500 words.**
- **Describe a time when you experienced or witnessed intolerance; how you reacted and how it affected you.**
- **2 Prizes: \$50 for a 12 to 14 year old, and \$50 for a 15 to 18 year old.**
- **Winners published here!**

Tampa Humanist Association



Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM in
The North Tampa Public Library
8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)

November Meeting Moved!

For November 15th, we will meet at the Carl Sagan Day event shown on the front of this newsletter. Join us for lively presentations and engaging discussions about things that truly matter.



September's SkeptiCamp a great Beginning: 50 attended

Tampa Bay Skeptics is currently being revived. See [Judy Adkins](#) for more info. Previously, it conducted investigations, followed the activities of other skeptics groups, monitored the press coverage of issues and published a quarterly newsletter, **Tampa Bay Skeptics Report**, TBS also provided a skeptical voice as a counterweight to the irrationalism and superstition that is increasingly prevalent in the television and print media. TBS is committed to objective and critical inquiry. In this vein, we share the philosophy of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI) -- publisher of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, an international organization that has nurtured the growth of local skeptics groups (such as we are aiming to bring into being) all over the world. Contact any freethought leader or group to learn more.



Order this important new book now from [Amazon](#)
By local Humanistic Counselor, **Linda Faulkner**

Dangerous Wishcraft, By Linda Faulkner is a must read for anyone who has ever questioned the truth of religious beliefs, explores the dangers of relying on prayer ~wishcraft~ rather than using rational thinking skills, and the often tragic mental, emotional, and physical consequences that can result. Religion, which may have originated as a way to explain the world, has now become an anchor in the fight against scientific knowledge. Modern evangelical religions are attempting to drag the world back into the Dark Ages. This book shines a light, through stories of clients scarred by religion combined with scientific research, on the damage religious fanaticism can inflict on both individual and global levels, and also presents potential strategies for protection from the dangerous practice of wishcraft.

HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

The need is great. All it takes is about an hour out of a day and the commitment to show up once a week. The feeling of having helped is most gratifying. How can we as Humanists not act to impact a child in the inner city in a positive manner?

YOU can give a child a much-needed hour of personal attention that will encourage reading and just might help them to move forward while improving their self-esteem.

In Hillsborough County, contact: **Debra L. Blossom**,
Program Manager Training and Volunteer Management
debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us 813.872-5254

Gale Barron

What is the Meaning of 5 Freethought?

Freethought is defined as the process of making decisions and arriving at beliefs without relying solely upon tradition, dogma, or the opinions of authorities. Freethought thus means using science, logic, empiricism, and reason in belief formation, especially in the context of religion. This is why freethought is closely associated with skepticism and [critical atheism](#), but the definition of freethought can be applied to other areas as well like politics, consumer choices, the paranormal, etc.

Nineteenth-century libertarians, particularly the individualist anarchists associated with Benjamin Tucker's magazine *Liberty*, identified with the cultural radicalism of their day - including the labor movement, abolitionism, First Wave feminism, freethought, and "free love."
- Charles Johnson, "Liberty, Equality, Solidarity Toward a Dialectical Anarchism" in *Anarchism/Minarchism: Is a Government Part of a Free Country?*

In the twentieth century, the portfolio of cultural criticism came to include the cause of consumer and labor rights, then antiwar activism, and a very heavy involvement with the civil rights movement. Since then its popularity has increased as the liberation and freedom of women began to achieve real success, and LGBT activism began to make unisexual unions more legally and socially acceptable. In our time, the realization is slowly dawning on the populace that more rational approaches to the problems of global warming, overpopulation, and resource exhaustion must be considered.

Freedom of thought is the one solace of life that can be enjoyed by everyone, even in the most desperate of circumstances. And it is the one resource on which we can always depend to find the way to resolving the problems we have created for ourselves. JP

Humanist Quotes

"Human decency is not derived from religion. It precedes it."

Christopher Hitchens

Florida Atheists



Atheism sprinting into the future!

Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter on **Sunday, November 9th at our headquarters building.** **Activist, Jim Young will be on hand, and we'll put together another video program.** See the [AoF Meetup](#) for more information.

JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#).

Soon you will be able to subscribe to AoF's news service, keeping you informed of matters of importance to the freethought, secular community.

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and 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.

Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts (audio & video). Let us know if you wish to participate. We are a resource for those with questions and doubts about the standard religious narrative of life.

For many people, atheism represents the most focused and 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 and changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs.

Because it is such a foundational and wrenching break with the past and because it leads the way in recognizing a broad range of possibilities for both scientific and social progress, atheism is an essential pillar for all other humanist and freethought philosophies. We join our coalition organizations to provide an essential part of the unique spectra of thought and activity that is vital to human progress. From a personal standpoint, we bring a human centered ethic to bear in serving our fellow human beings as they struggle to overcome the delusional psychology of years of religious conditioning. JP

Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better

The Oxford Declaration on Freedom of Thought and Expression 2014

The 2014 World Humanist Congress, gathered in Oxford, UK, on 8-10 August 2014, adopted the following declaration on freedom of thought and expression:

All around the world and at all times, it is freedom of thought and freedom of expression that have proved the most essential conditions for human flourishing, but every generation must face new threats to these fundamental freedoms. Knowing this, we maintain:

The right to freedom of thought and belief is one and the same right for all. The human right articulated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and elaborated elsewhere is and should be a single right, indivisible, protecting the dignity and freedom of all people by protecting their right to their personal beliefs, whatever those beliefs, religious or non-religious. As Article 7 of the Declaration says, 'All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.'

No one anywhere should ever be forced into or out of a belief. Freedom of thought implies the right to develop, hold, examine and manifest our beliefs without coercion, and to express opinions and a worldview whether religious or non-religious, without fear of coercion. It includes the right to change our views or to reject beliefs previously held, or previously ascribed. Pressure to conform to ideologies of the state or to doctrines of religion is a tyranny. Laws that prescribe or criminalise beliefs contravene human dignity and must be abolished. Every citizen of every state has the right to demand the repeal of such laws, and all states should support those, wherever they are, who demand that their social freedoms and personal liberty be upheld.

The right to freedom of expression is global in its scope. The human right articulated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes the right to 'seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers'. No parochial nationalism or state insecurity should prevent the global human community from fulfilling the promise of our new technologies, our mass media, our social media, and our personal access to transnational networks. States should invest adequate resources to allow their citizens' participation in this global conversation.

There is no right not to be offended, or not to hear contrary opinions. Respect for people's freedom of belief does not imply any duty or requirement to respect those beliefs. The expression of opposition to any beliefs, including in the form of satire, ridicule or condemnation in all media and forms is vital to critical discourse and any restraint that is exercised in this expression must be in accordance of article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, namely to protect the rights and freedoms of others. The best response to the expression of a view we disagree with is to reply to it. Violence and censorship are never legitimate responses. All laws that criminalise language on grounds of 'blasphemy' or of offence to beliefs and values impede human freedom and should be abolished.

States must not restrict thought and expression merely to protect the government from criticism. States that criminalise criticism of government policies or officials as treasonous or seditious, or as threats to security, are not "strong governments" championing the best interests of the public, but censorious bullies exercising tyranny in their own interests. States should ensure in the law of the land, in their education systems, and in the conduct of their national life generally, that freedom of thought and expression are actively promoted and pursued to the real benefit of every member of society.

Freedom of belief is absolute but the freedom to act on a belief is not. As responsible members of a community we accept that our freedom to act must sometimes be restricted, if and only if our actions would undermine the rights and freedoms of others. Freedom of belief cannot legitimise overriding the principles of non-discrimination and equality before the law. These balances can be hard to strike but with a focus on freedom and human dignity, we believe legislators and judiciaries can strike them in a progressive manner.

We assert the principles of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and secularism as providing the firmest foundation for the development of open societies where freedom of thought and expression will be protected and promoted.

We commit ourselves in all our work to uphold and promote existing rights to freedom of thought and expression within the international human rights framework and to resist national and international restrictions on the right of individuals to think for themselves freely and to openly express their views without fear.

We urge each of our member organizations and humanists worldwide to uphold these values in their own lives; to promote in their communities greater public understanding of the rights to freedom of thought and freedom of expression for all; to urge their governments to promote these values; and to join with humanists and others globally in defending and advancing them to the benefit of all humanity.

<http://iheu.org/oxford-declaration-on-freedom-of-thought-and-expression/> rok

Clearwater UU Humanists

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

The UU Humanists are open to all aspects of humanism, including investigation of religious humanism. However, the focus of the group is on secular aspects of humanism.

Programs have been well received with attendance between 50 and 75. To learn more, please contact: co-facilitators: Bill Norsworthy bnorsworthy@verizon.net Mark Brandt mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu Web site: www.uuclearwater.org



UU Humanists will be meeting next in November at the Tampa Bay Computer Society for the celebration of Carl Sagan Day. **Clearwater, Florida**
Mark your calendar!

Be sure to check us out during the rest of the year, as we have some extraordinary programs and truly wonderful speakers. See page 1 for Carl Sagan Day! 10/14



Florida NOW

<http://www.flnow.org/>

NOW is a multi-issue political organization. NOW's self-defined role has been to initiate change for the benefit of the greatest number of people, to affect the legal and institutional structures of the society in a way that systematically expands the choices and possibilities available to all women. In this way, NOW takes action to bring women, as a class, into the mainstream of society, rather than offering aid to individual women in achieving personal solutions or temporary relief from oppression.

The Florida National Organization for Women is a group dedicated to taking action to bring ALL women into full equality and participation through changing policy, law and culture. This mission attracts women and men of diverse backgrounds and gives us the ability to look at the systemic oppression in our lives and determine actions that will bring about change for all women.

Often, we are contacted by women and men who are facing "legal" situations, or in need of help for a group or individual. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide direct services, and for legal reasons we can not provide referrals for lawyers or other services. If you need these services, please consider doing an internet search for local attorneys, referral services, legal aide, domestic violence shelters, or other terms that are appropriate for your individual situation. Good luck.

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



One of the reasons it's important for people who care about civil liberties to vote in this election is Amendment 2, which would allow Floridians with serious long-term illnesses obtain medical marijuana as prescribed by a doctor. **The ACLU of Florida supports Amendment 2**, because people battling cancer, living with HIV, suffering chronic pain or many other illnesses shouldn't needlessly suffer because of fear-based drug policies.

Also on the ballot is Amendment 3, which is an attack by the legislature on the independence of the judicial branch. Amendment 3 removes the power of a newly-elected governor to appoint judges, allowing an outgoing governor already halfway out the door and no longer accountable to the voters to fill judicial vacancies. **The ACLU of Florida opposes Amendment 3**, which disempowers voters by denying this important power to the people's duly-chosen constitutional representative.

With all that's at stake in this election, it's important that you be prepared before casting your vote. **[Make your voice heard on these important civil liberties issues by getting empowered to vote.](#)**

For more: <http://acluf.org/>

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF JOIN THE ACLU

11/14



The
**Humanities
Institute of USF**
Presents
Dr. Chris Impey

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Location TBD 6:00pm, reception to follow

The Vexing Problem of Science Literacy, with Chris Impey
As the world faces crises like global warming and environmental degradation, scientists, educators, and policy makers agree that the need for citizens to be scientifically literate is increasingly urgent. But there the agreement ends. What do we mean by scientific literacy? How do we know it when we see it? How do we measure it? Scientific understanding is a fundamentally human issue, and the Institute is delighted to welcome Chris Impey, renowned astronomer and internationally-known expert on science education, who will address the "The Vexing Problem of Scientific Literacy."

[Click here for more great presentations 2014 schedule](#) 11/14

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area: Tampa Humanist Association, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Center for Inquiry, UU Humanists Clearwater, UU Humanists Tampa,* Secular Student Alliance USF,* Atheists of Florida, Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought ideas and principles.

(* = not currently members of the Coalition)

Member organizations and agencies should contact the following CoR representatives about the matters indicated:

Calendar:
Rick O'Keefe

Newsletter:
Jim Peterson

Web site:
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

For several years now, various leaders of the Freethought community in the bay area have been meeting informally to share experiences, and occasionally to coordinate plans. But recently, changing circumstances have brought additional pressure to cooperate in bringing programs and members services to an expanding movement.

At this point leaders continue to meet, and together with the various boards of directors and committees, try to develop policies that will enable every group to enhance its unique role in serving its members.

There appears to be general agreement on developing several community wide programs over the year that will allow significant speakers to be presented in our area. The costs of these programs will be shared among the organizations proportionally.

Thus substantive and exciting new activities will be offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason and its director, Fred Edwards. You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected in Tampa Bay and across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God. Millions are!"

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

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments. JP Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net

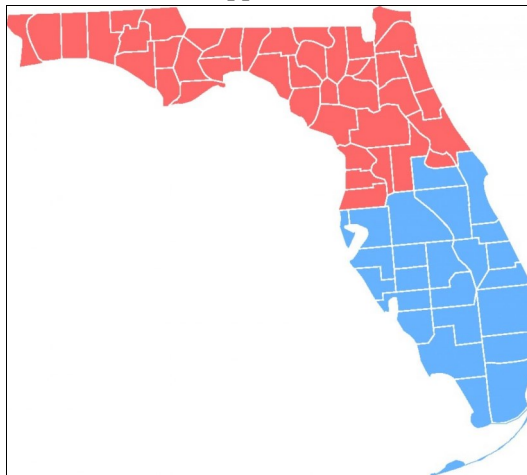


An autonomous project of the Humanist Society. Affiliate of [PCI](#)

Environmental Secession!

The South Miami City Commission voted 3 to 2 for Florida's 23 southern counties to secede and form a new state named South Florida because of frustration over environmental issues and a lack of concern by state leaders. The average elevation in southern Florida is lower than in the north, and global warming and rising sea levels threaten the region, the city said in a [resolution](#) this month. However, getting Tallahassee to pay attention to the growing problem is difficult, the city said.

"South Florida's situation is very precarious and in need of immediate attention," reads the resolution. "Presently, in order to address the concerns of South Florida, it is necessary to travel to Tallahassee in North Florida. Often South Florida issues do not receive the support of Tallahassee."



The need to create a new state is a "necessity for the very survival of the entire southern region of the current state of Florida," the commission said.

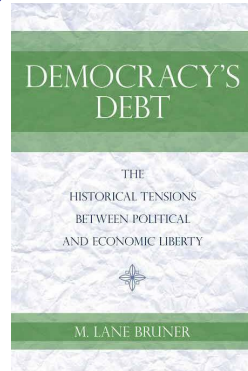
A copy of the resolution will be sent to the 23 counties and all municipalities in Miami-Dade County. To form a new state, a proposal must be approved by the state legislature and U.S. Congress. No state has been formed from a previously existing state since 1863 when West Virginia was created from Virginia.

In September, [a proposal in California](#) to split the state six ways failed to receive enough signatures to make it onto the ballot in 2016.

Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more.

Prometheus Press

Democracy's Debt: The Historical Tensions between Political and Economic Liberty



“It is an undeniable fact that economic circumstances can directly impact political affairs, that wealth is easily translated into political...”

GENDER
in a Globalized World
IDENTITIES



EDITED BY
ANA MARTA GONZALEZ
VICTOR J. SHIDLER

“This cross-disciplinary collection of essays focuses on gender from multiple perspectives, touching on a variety of aspects ranging from ...”

Evolve Fish is a good source for your freethought goodies:

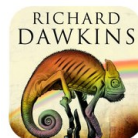
Pins, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, etc.

<http://evolvefish.com/>

Read Humanist Periodicals: The world's leading minds can be read at: [The Humanist](#), [Free Inquiry](#), [Free Mind](#), [Humanist Perspectives](#), [Skeptical Inquirer](#), [Secular Humanist Bulletin](#), [The Florida Humanist Journal](#), [Skeptic](#), [Essays in Humanism](#), and many others. Look 'em up!

The Magic of Reality

Download it to your I-pad to experience this award winning multi media book.

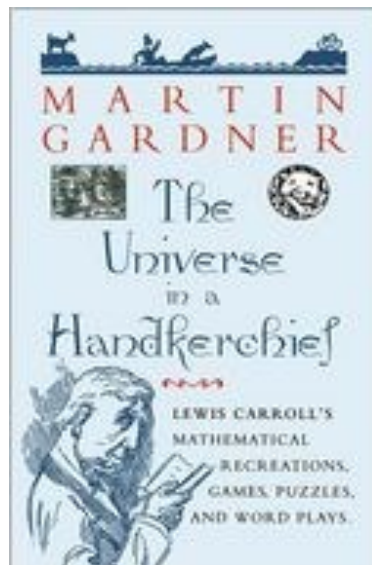


Martin Gardner

In celebrating this brilliant and humorous skeptic and humanist, find a compendium of information, including his many writings, [here](#).

For hours of pleasurable mental exercise:

The Universe in a Handkerchief: Lewis Carroll's Mathematical Recreations, Games, Puzzles, and Word Plays (Copernicus/Springer-Verlag, 1996, 10 + 158 pages) surveys the topics indicated by its title in the chapters Fiction and Verse, The Diaries, Letters, Books and Articles, Miscellaneous Amusements, Doublets, and Pamphlets on Games.



The Matt Cooper

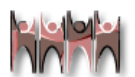
Memorial Humanist Library.

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 Hawkins |
| 25. Breaking the Spell | Daniel Dennett |
| 26. The Philosophy of Humanism | Corliss Lamont |
| 27. The Quotable Atheist | Jack Huberman |
| 28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a 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 Rest of 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 & Palmari |
| 56. Sex & God | Darryl Ray |
| 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? | Fitrikis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman |
| 61. Autobiography of Mark Twain | Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith |
| 62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible | |
| 63. Database Systems (Complete Ver.) | Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis |
| 64. Reluctant Database Administrators | Josef Finsel |
| 65. Asimov's Guide to the Bible | Isaac Asimov |
| 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 |



Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008 at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. in Tampa, every third Monday of the month at 7 PM.

Come cogitate with us! [Nov. 17th:](#)
“7 Blunders of the World”



The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



Nontheistic service members serve honorably throughout the world—always have; always will. However, nontheists are the last unprotected minority. The nontheistic, whether an atheist, humanist, agnostic, freethinker, or other secular minority, have a strong community.

Jason Torpy, a West Point graduate, serves as president of MAAF. He also holds seats on the boards of the Secular Coalition for America and the American Humanist Assoc.

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris

(christbrown@yahoo.com)

MSgt, USAF (Retired) Co-Organizer:
 MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists
 (MASH) MacDill AFB, FL

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



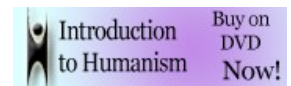
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year.

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*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP
 See much more at: www.Jen-Hancock.com,

Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and 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 and 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 and 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](#).

Situational Ethics

Humanist ethics are situational - but that doesn't mean it's meaningless.

I've been involved in a couple of online discussions on ethics. I'm assured that if I think there are not objectively true moral truths, then my ethics must be relative and therefore meaningless. If all ethics are relative then there is no way for us to agree on what is moral.

But that's the problem isn't it. Even people who posit absolute morals don't agree on what is moral. And I think we do much better at deriving morality in shared discussion than we do when we think absolutely about things.

This doesn't mean I'm without moral grounding. I have a very firm grasp of my morals and I feel quite strongly about them. I'm just willing to entertain the possibility that my perspective and my moral reasoning may be wrong in any given situation. It's called intellectual humility and I consider it to be a very good thing.

For me, one of the strengths of Humanism is precisely that it has no dogma. If we find out we were wrong, we are free to change our minds. I do it quite often and I'm proud of that fact that I do. Because if I can't change my mind, how can I be sure I still have one?

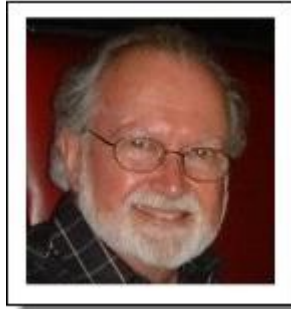
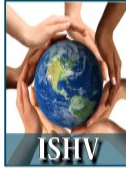
So - let's celebrate doubt and the fact that even though ethics may be relative, we still have the ability to find meaning in morality.

Here is a great essay from the Friendly Humanist - which explains quite well how I feel about this subject. <http://friendlyhumanist.net/2014/10/01/can-you-tell-up-from-down/> For those too lazy to link - the basic argument is that even though up and down are relative terms - they still have useful meaning - even if that meaning is completely relative to where you are in space at any given time.

Jennifer Hancock

Institute for Rational Living

Institute for Rational Living
2502 N Rocky Point Dr, Suite 1010
Tampa, FL 33607-1406
Office Phone: 1-727-278-8446
Office Fax: 1-727-391-8459
vparr@ishv.net



Vincent Parr, PhD

Clinical Psychologist at
Institute for Advanced Study MRL
President at Institute for Rational Living
Doc, Can You Help? is a unique service to the secular humanist community.
A secular advice column, authored by Dr. Vincent Parr, it deals with
all aspects of human problems ranging from disappointment to stress and
suffering. 8/14

AH Appignani Humanist LC Legal Center

Colorado School District Promotes Christianity, Humanist Group Files Lawsuit

October 22, 2014 – The Appignani Humanist Legal Center challenges a public school's practices of supporting Christianity.

School Officials Enforce Dress Code by Requiring Students to Stand for Pledge of Allegiance

October 21, 2014 – American Humanist Association objects to this violation of students' constitutional rights.

Christian Scripture on School Monument Will Be Removed, Says Georgia School Board

October 15, 2014 – In response to a letter from the Appignani Humanist Legal Center, a public school will uphold church/state separation.

Public Elementary School Distributes Gideon Bibles to Students

October 14, 2014 – The Rankin County School District violates the First Amendment and a consent decree.

Letter from Humanist Group Prompts High School to Remove Religious Materials from Classroom

October 14, 2014 – At the urging of the Appignani Humanist Legal Center, a public school teacher takes down a religious calendar.



Rodrick Colbert

Freethinkers@USF is a multicultural, interdisciplinary student society which welcomes USF students who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, humanists, or religiously open-minded who seek to promote reason, compassion, tolerance, and free inquiry on campus. We hope to contribute opportunity for interdisciplinary dialog to the USF community, and build scientific literacy for all to enable objective and rational interpretations of issues affecting our lives. The organization is open to anyone of any religious persuasion or personal beliefs.

Write Rodrick Colbert or freethinkersusf@gmail.com.

the Institute for Science and Human Values
Presents
Perspectives on Death and Dying Symposium
Dying Without Deity
April 10 & 11, 2015
• Save The Date •




Prepare for 2nd Annual Freethought Cruise

Come and escape to Cozumel next winter on a Caribbean cruise with David Silverman, President of American Atheists! Join dozens of other freethinkers on the second annual Freethought Cruise.

We set sail from Tampa, Florida Thursday afternoon, January 29th and visit Cozumel, Mexico returning to Tampa on Monday morning, February 2nd. During both days at sea David Silverman will speak to the group about his work for American Atheists, state/church separation, and his forthcoming book "I, Atheist". Of course, since David is vacationing with us for the weekend there will be plenty of opportunities for you to chat with him one on one.

Cozumel is one of the top diving and snorkeling destinations in the world for its bright coral reefs and beautiful beaches. Shore excursions will also take you to Mayan ruins and many other adventures listed below. Be sure to check out all of them before deciding.

We cruise on the Carnival Paradise which has plenty to do on board. There is Camp Carnival for the kids, several pools, hot tubs, and sun decks and first-rate entertainment. The ship even has dedicated teen and pre-teen clubs AND an adult only sun deck so bring the whole family if you like so everyone can enjoy themselves!

With a \$150 deposit, per person, you can select the cabin of your choice now. The total cost of the cruise is \$330 per passenger for an interior stateroom or \$370 for an ocean view. These prices are based on double occupancy, and includes all taxes and fees. Plus you will get \$50 on board credit per cabin for drinks or other on board expenses. Shore excursion prices are listed below or you can book these on your own if you choose.

After your initial deposit, you will be contacted to determine how you want to handle future payments (such as monthly or in one final payment).

If you seek a wonderful opportunity to have a fun weekend and hang out with fellow freethinkers, don't miss this one!

If you are interested, you may sign up directly through this link:
<http://www.expertvacationstation.com/rw/view/3516>



Travel Specialist for our group:
Jaine Nelson, Cruise Planners/American Express
jainenelson@cruiseplanners.com Ph. 612-802-8810 or 651-785-5157

Check with CFI, AHA, and other groups for more Freethought Cruises!



Congratulations to member, [Frank Prahl](#) on being profiled in the November issue of *Freethought Today* magazine. Check it out on page 23. Frank has a long and noble history of support for the freethought movement. Thx, Steve Brown.



Another venue for non-theist Political Action

The first nontheist Political Action Committee to have full time paid staff advocating for the rights of nonbelievers is being launched today by the Center for Humanist Activism. [The Freethought Equality Fund](#) will be backing candidates who support the constitutional principal of church-state separation and defend the civil liberties of secular Americans.

"The increasing numbers of non-religious Americans now have a vibrant PAC that will be directly supporting candidates who champion the principles of secular government now so fervently under attack," said Freethought Equality Fund PAC Coordinator Bishop McNeill. "There is a clear need to assist candidates who will challenge those looking to use the power of government to impose religious doctrines on everyone."

The mission of the Freethought Equality Fund is to change the face of American politics by supporting candidates who identify as humanist, atheist, agnostic, as well as those who share our goals of protecting the separation of church and state and defending the civil liberties of secular Americans.

"I am pleased that we're able to meet this need for political representation for atheist, humanist, and other freethinkers," said Freethought Equality Fund Executive Director Roy Speckhardt. "To be able to provide financial assistance to candidates who support secular government will benefit all Americans, including those who value the absence of government entanglement in religious beliefs."

The Freethought Equality Fund PAC will be looking to support candidates at all levels of government. More information can be found at freethoughtequality.org.

Ω

The Freethought Equality Fund PAC (freethoughtequality.org) is affiliated with the Center for Humanist Activism (humanistactivism.org), which is the advocacy and political arm of the American Humanist Association (americanhumanist.org).

Other groups pursuing similar objectives include the [Secular Coalition for America](#), and CFI's [Office for Public Policy](#). Most Freethought organizations list public policy analysis and action among their purposes, but as 501c3 groups, cannot participate directly in the electoral process.

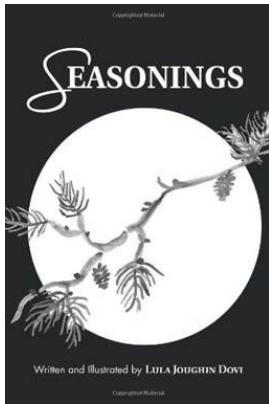


At the **Center for Inquiry**, we believe that evidence-based reasoning, in which humans work together to address common concerns, is critical for modern world civilization. Moreover, unlike many other institutions, we maintain that scientific methods and reasoning should be utilized in examining the claims of both pseudoscience and religion. We reject mysticism and blind faith. No topic should be placed off limits to scrutiny—certainly not fringe science and religion, which have an enormous influence on beliefs and conduct.

We also maintain that values are properly the subject of study and discussion as much as empirical claims. The Center for Inquiry studies and promotes human values based on a naturalistic outlook. Ideological doctrine and religious dogma have no more right to dictate our moral norms than they do to influence scientific research. *You can help:* [Membership/Renewals/Donations](#)



Rick O'Keefe

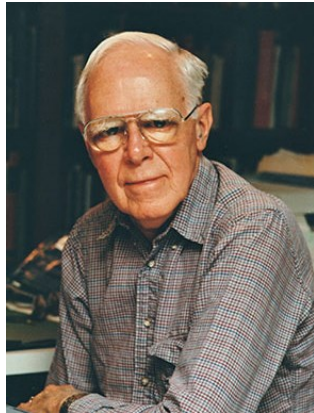


Cause & Effect is the biweekly newsletter of the Center for Inquiry community, covering the wide range of work that you help make possible.

The November/December issue of *Skeptical Inquirer* is out, and it features a handy and unvarnished rebuttal of common attacks on doctors and “Western medicine” made by the proponents of alt-med.

Fortnightly CFI updates not enough? Of course they're not! • Follow CFI on [Twitter](#); • Like us on [Facebook](#); • Encircle us on [Google+](#); • Subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel.

Humanist Society member, **Lula J. Dovi** has completed an illustrated chapbook of poetry reflecting on her 92 years and adventures. It is [available here](#) at Amazon.



In Celebration of **Martin Gardner**, who was born one hundred years ago, on October 21, 1914. To commemorate the centennial of the birth of one of the greatest figures in modern scientific skepticism, we have decided to republish a selection of his “Notes of a Psi-Watcher” and “Notes of a Fringe-Watcher” columns from the *SKEPTICAL INQUIRER* on our [website](http://bit.ly/1tA167f). <http://bit.ly/1tA167f>

The articles selected were chosen to not only highlight the wide range of topics that came under the scrutiny of Martin's wit and curiosity but also to showcase the varying writing styles Martin used to combat pseudoscience. On one hand, he could cut like a surgeon and be dry and acerbic, while on the other he could be lithe and deft at turning a humorous phrase.

Enjoy Five Puzzles posted in "[Let the Games Continue.](#)" a celebration of Martin Gardner's legacy in *Scientific American*. <http://bit.ly/1ouvQ7G>

Hermits and Cranks: Lessons from Martin Gardner on Recognizing Pseudoscientists, from *Scientific American*: <http://bit.ly/1ouvQ7G>

Finally, here is Scientific American's tribute. <http://bit.ly/1tfTivN>

This week on *Point of Inquiry*, columnist and activist Katha Pollitt discusses her new book, *Pro: Reclaiming Reproductive Rights*.

<http://on.fb.me/1yYs3J>



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
Sarasota, Florida

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the Humane use of technology. Attend our **Random act of Kindness** event for **Saturday, October 25th**. Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>
Dave 'Doc' Dockery President,
Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org
We repair our members computers!

Calendar of Upcoming main events:

Nov 26:

12: PM **lunch**, 1:45 PM **Current Affairs discussion group**.
New Dynasty Restaurant, 6131 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota ([map](#))
[more details»](#)

For more information, see the HusBay [website](#):



<http://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>

Practical Freethought

We need the support of freethinkers in the bay area to help us provide the many activities that a handful of us work to give you, so please do your part: TBCoR is not a membership organization, so pay for membership in one of our member associations, then join in, volunteer, don't hide your beliefs.

The **United Coalition of Reason** is a national organization, of which **Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason (TBCoR)** is part. CoR is a vigorous organization. Fred Edwards, experienced and successful marketer and non-profit executive, gave two talks on successful PR and marketing at the recent Florida Humanists Association statewide conference. Those of you who are willing to make your favorite local freethought group more successful through marketing and publicity need to let your group's leadership know that you volunteer! You can make use of Fred's tried-&-true tip sheets.

Who is Fred Edwards? His CoR bio follows. Currently, Fred is National Director of CoR, [E-mail: fredwards@unitedcor.org](mailto:fredwards@unitedcor.org).

He is a leading voice for humanism in the United States and abroad. Fred Edwards is recognized as an outstanding lecturer, debater, and teacher on human rights, humanist philosophical issues, and effective outreach techniques for organizations in the community of reason. He has appeared on national and local television in the United States and Canada, has been interviewed on radio and for newspapers around the world, and has lectured in North America, Europe, and India. He has also written for several publications in the United States and elsewhere.

Fred Edwards began his humanist activism in 1977 as vice president of the Humanist Association of San Diego. He became president the next year, expanded his reach as American Humanist

Association West Coast regional coordinator in 1979, and became national administrator for the organization in 1980. He then served for fifteen years as AHA executive director (1984-1999) and twelve years as editor of the *Humanist* magazine (1994-2006). Edwards subsequently shifted his attention to bringing humanism to a wider public as AHA director of communications. Today he serves as a management and PR consultant to the AHA while heading up the United Coalition of Reason, bringing local group leaders together in cities across the United States and training them in public relations and effective use of the media.

Fred Edwards is also seen as a leader in the broader community of reason. He was the first president (2002-2005) of Camp Quest, Inc., a summer camp for freethinking children, and served in various leadership roles on the staff of the Ohio camp from 1998 to 2008. He has also served on the boards of the International Humanist and Ethical Union and the National Center for Science Education, served as vice president of the North American Committee for Humanism, and is currently a member of the Broader Social Impacts Committee for the Hall of Human Origins at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. In 1980 he was the founding editor of the *Creation/Evolution* journal—the only publication dedicated to answering the pseudoscientific, philosophical, educational, and legal arguments of creationists—serving as its editor for eleven years. For such work Edwards was recognized in the mid-1980s as Rationalist of the Year by the American Rationalist Federation and as a Humanist Pioneer by the American Humanist Association. He continues as an advisor to the Secular Student Alliance, as a humanist celebrant in the Humanist Society, and as national director of the International Darwin Day Foundation.

Our local freethought associations are rightfully thankful for Fred's support, guidance, humor, and humanist *joie de vivre*.

Holidays of Special Interest

- **2014** is the UN International Year of Family Farming

November is Novel Writing Month

November 15 - 22 is Game & Puzzle Week

1st Book Lovers Day

5th Guy Fawkes day

13th World Kindness Day

16th Have a party with your bear Day

20th Absurdity Day

21st Voltaire's Birthday

28th Buy Nothing Day

30th Stay at Home because you are well Day



TBCoR Leadership Team 2014

Mark Brandt, Chris Brown, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas
UUCH MAF TBHF CFI HSS, TBPC Aof

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Be Included!

Group Leaders are invited to send items for this Newsletter. Please send them to: tbcornews@metrodirect.net
For calendar items, include as much info as possible.