



The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

See Pg 6

Vol. 4 No. 4 April, 2015 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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This **Openly Secular Day**, tell one person, "I am openly secular!"

On the **fourth Thursday (23rd)** in April, atheists, agnostics, humanists, free-thinkers, secular Americans, and their supporters from all across the United States will gather at several locations nationwide for the first annual Openly Secular Day!

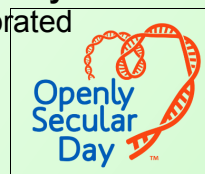
There are many ways to participate, from pledging to Tell One Person about your secular worldview, to hosting Openly Secular Day celebrations.

This is a historic event—never before have so many celebrated simultaneously their openly secular lives!

Join us in this inaugural event!

Celebrations are already confirmed at the University of Central Florida, **Take our "Tell One Person" pledge,**

and let at least one person know that you are loudly, proudly openly secular.

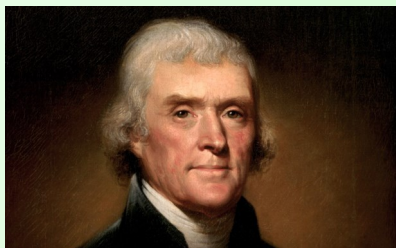


Earth Day 2015



The 6th Annual **EcoFest** will be held on Saturday, April 18th at the Lowry Park bandshell area – [7525 N. Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33604](#). The event will be open to the public from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM Admission to the event is free. There will be live music, workshops, demonstrations, informational booths, green living products and services. Some local artists, green businesses, environmental organizations, alternative health practitioners, renewable energy specialists, organic farms and gardens with produce will be in attendance.

Tampa Bay Skeptics will have a serious discussion led by Environmental Designer, **Luke Melton of the Post Carbon Council**, on the nature of the coming Earth Changes and how Tampa Bay may be affected. 4-25-15 11:00 AM at the Jan Platt Library on Manhattan Ave. Tampa



Jefferson - Hitchens Day to be celebrated. "Let's get rational!"

April 12th at 2:30 PM at the Jan Platt Library. Two of the greatest minds of the secular world will be examined for an updated understanding of the separation of secular and religious world views and the concomitant isolation of religion from public policy directions in everyday life.

This is an especially urgent discussion given the dangerously violent and erratic course of many world religious institutions. In order for commonalities to be discovered and a way to peace found, it is vitally important that all parties have as comprehensive an understanding of each other as possible. Be there! Sponsored by AoF.





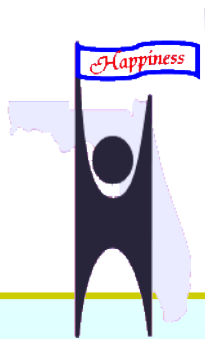
Tampa Bay Coalition – April, 2015 Calendar of Reason

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.



04-TBA	PINELLAS COUNTY - Humanist Society Moveable Feast Paid Members welcome.	This month's selection: see Page 4 Please RSVP to the address given on pg. 4	
04-01 & 05, See Web site	BRADENTON- SARASOTA Humanist Families of Tampa Bay	Family outings and other activities. See page 13 www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/	
04-04, Saturday 2:00 PM	CLEARWATER- Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Lectures & discussions. To RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/	
April – 5 events See Spring calendar	TAMPA Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many great events and calendar. Many fabulous speakers all in one month! See page 7.	
04-10 & 11, See Web site	TAMPA - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club at MOSI	Web site: http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/ for all details.	
04-12, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON- Atheists of Brandon	Atheists in the Pub. RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/	
04-12, Sunday, 2:30 PM <i>SPECIAL EVENT see Pg 1</i>	TAMPA- See page 6 for details Atheists of Florida , Inc.	More: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/	
04-18, Saturday 11:00 AM	TAMPA- Tampa Humanist Association	Details: Page 5, or see our Meetup http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/	
04-19, Sunday, 2 PM Usually 3rd Sunday of each month	BRANDON-CFI Skeptics & Humanists	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
04-19, Saturday 12:30 PM	CLEARWATER- UU Humanists	regular Sunday meeting: http://www.uuc.org/ See page 7 for more info on UU Humanists	
04-20, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD- Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. For topic, see page 10. RSVP here: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP	
04-8, & 22, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7 PM Pg. 5	Tampa East UU Humanists	11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637 http://uutampa.org/unitarian-universalist-humanist-of-tampa/	
04-24, Frtiday, 8:00 PM 4- Friday gen'l. mtg.	ST. PETERSBURG - Astronomy Club	For several dates, location, & and details: http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php	
04-25, Saturday, 10:30 AM Must have read the book to attend	NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE-CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. Limited to 12 CFI members. RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
04-25, Saturday 11:00 AM See Page 1	S. TAMPA- Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests & critical thinking. Click to RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/	
04-25, Saturday 11:00 AM	S. TAMPA Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay	Details & RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
04-27, Monday, 6 PM POT LUCK SUPPER	N. PINELLAS AREA- CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here <i>before</i> midnight, Sunday. CFI paid members. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
04-22, Wed, 1:45pm – 3:15pm	Sarasota Area Humanists of Sarasota	New Dynasty Restaurant, 6131 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota (map) Current affairs luncheon & discussion Group	



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

Volume 23 No. 4 April, 2015

Greg Rosasco, Physicist & Humanist



In a Shrinking Commons, How Much Must We Share?

How can the commons be harvested and developed in a socially ethical manner, or is that even possible? Can the capitalist system of property ownership and profit motive mesh with the shared cost of reclamation, pollution recovery, health and property damage? Who are the stakeholders in undeveloped natural resources and what should guide the priority and method of their development?

Greg Rosasco: Born and raised on Long Island, Greg moved with his family to a dairy farm in NE Penn. His education is from (Jesuit) University of Scranton with a double major in Physics and Philosophy (Scholasticism); followed by grad school in Physics at Fordham, PhD 1969.

His 37 year career at National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with scientific research centered on the application of laser technology to measurement problems in solid state materials, combustion and gas dynamics, and chemical analysis (especially chemical microanalysis). Ultimately, he lead divisions providing primary-reference physical standards, calibration and reference data services to industry and scientific laboratories around the world.

In recent years, Greg has enjoyed reacquainting himself with the amazing developments in science and exploring philosophy beyond Scholasticism with an emphasis on 20th and 21st century thinking on the major ethical issues of our time.

His religious evolution passed from a hopeful Catholic in the era of John the XXIII, through Lutheranism (ELCA), to UU Humanist in recent years. DK

~ **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 above)**
- _ Life -\$200.
- _ Life Couple -\$250.
- _ Associate -\$10



Your membership helps keep Humanism alive and 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 and enables us to support larger and 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 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



*= optional



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 at
2 PM April 4th
at

The Clearwater
Countryside
Library 2741
State Rd. 580
Clearwater, FL
33761

Many members
go to dinner
afterwards at the
Farmer Boy
Restaurant on
Drew St.



*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
For April, it's ...

Georgie Boy
Restaurant

1101 S Missouri Ave, Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 442-1217

We're changing our approach. Now its just open. No RSVP required. Trundle on down for the fine food and fastidiously fabulous fellowship!

But be there on Sunday April 19th by 4 O'clock for preferred seating. Otherwise you may have to stand. As always, this is a self treated dinner. JP

Laugh Lines *American Wisdom* 4-15

Will Rogers, who died in a 1935 plane crash, was one of the greatest political sages this country has ever known.
Enjoy the following:

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket.
8. There are three kinds of men:
The ones that learn by reading.
The few who learn by observation.
The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

. . Thanks to **Connie Purdum**

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

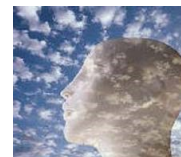
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Steve Brown,
Lois Fries, Secretary
Dave Kovar, Vice President
Beth Maxie
Jim Peterson, President
Frank Prah
Marios Psomas, treasurer
Jordan Williams
Emeritus members: Terry Eckstein,
Jon Green, Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore,
Mark Winterbottom, Sidney Goetz
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

**Need Psychological
Counseling?**
For a secular therapist,
click:
[Cognitive Neurosciences
Inc. or,](#)
The Therapist Project,
or,
Lynda Gurvitz,
(727) 725-8820
or Patricia Walters,
(813) 988-5977

**Also, For Addiction
Problems, see: [Life Ring
Secular Recovery Meetings](#)**
11485 Oakhurst Road
Waters Edge Club House
Largo, Florida



Tampa Humanist Association



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

Meets April 18th

We will have an open discussion on the Oscar nominated film,
Constantine's Sword

An indictment by a former priest, *James Carroll*, of the Christian churches' role in the ongoing climate of war and repression that has marked the history of the last 2000 years. There will be a discussion after the film.

Join the Tampa Humanist Association!

Dear Tampa Residents,

If you live in the area and desire to enrich your life with opportunities to learn about and discuss the most significant knowledge of our time, as well as to add your voice in advocacy for the best conditions for human life, then you should join the Tampa Humanist Association.

This is not merely an opportunity, but an obligation to bring the joys of empathy, friendship, and cooperation to our lives. Tampa is making slow but perceptible progress in bringing the social and material conditions of life in this town to a higher level than it has ever been. We can be the nexus for making it even better.

No great thing has ever been accomplished without imagination and vision. In this time of historic transition, when people are beginning to question old customs and beliefs, when allegiance to increasingly meaningless traditions is in sharp decline; people need to learn new methods of discovering the nature of the world and themselves.

The methods, aspirations and goals of the world Humanist movement offers just such an opportunity. Here in Tampa, the Humanist Association can be just such a vehicle. And, you can be a member; can make a difference in how we will live.

JP



Another Humanist Discussion group forms in east Tampa

5

UU Humanists of Tampa - Public Discussion, 2nd & 4th Wed. eve's.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637 More information can be found at :

<http://uutampa.org/unitarian-universalist-humanist-of-tampa/>

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?

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

Gale Barron

gfbshb@aol.com

Secular Services Directory

Serving the Secular Community with Rational Competence

if you offer or need professional services in any area of life, check out this opportunity. The directory for services will be out soon.



Humanist Quotes

“Gullibility and credulity are considered undesirable qualities in every department of human life -- except religion.”

Christopher Hitchens

[Read more](#)

Doubts about religion? You're one of many.

AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR HUMANISM

Learn more at WeAreAAH.org

LANGSTON HUGHES
Writer and Activist

ALIX JULES
Dallas - Ft. Worth Coalition of Reason



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

Tampa Bay Skeptics will have a serious discussion led by writer and Environmental Design Engineer,



Luke Melton of the Tampa Bay Post Carbon Council, on the nature of the coming Earth Changes and how Tampa Bay may be affected. 4-25-15 11:00 AM at the Jan Platt Library on Manhattan Ave. Tampa. A Presentation of Tampa Bay Skeptics, CFI, and the Post Carbon Council. You will learn something new!

The Blurred line

As we look toward the future, we find there is no sharp line between the “normal” world of our experience and the shifting and sometimes disturbing horizon of possibility. What we do know is that the collection of data and verifiable analysis we regard as science can provide us with an acute picture of a world we are about to enter.

What no one seems quite willing to accept is that we are entering upon a new age; an age of water, lots of it. As ice is melting everywhere, oceans are expanding, and weather grows more chaotic, floods (and droughts) more frequent. And yet we persist in the same habits and ways of life. Why do our societies seem unable to face what is by any measure the most important challenge since the last glacial age? The answer to this question may be the beginning of survival. Learn and stay alert! JP

Bill Nye (that's right) *The Science Guy*

To lecture at USF.



Bill Nye won the AHA Annual Humanist Award 2010

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

7:30 PM

University Lecture Series

[Marshall Student Center](#)

University Of South Florida 4202 E Fowler Ave,
MSC 4100 Tampa, FL ([map](#))

University Lecture Series events are free and open to the public, though students get priority seating. Non-students can enter the ballroom 15 minutes before the lecture begins.

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, Atheists of Florida, UU Humanists Tampa,* Secular Student Alliance USF,* Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought principles (*= not currently members of the Coalition)

Thus substantive and exciting new activities are 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, Jason Heap 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

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

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



Rob Lorei, radio and tv journalist (WMNF & WEDU) in the Tampa Bay Area, Clearwater, Florida will be speaking on April 19th at 12:30 pm

Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better



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



Across the nation, law enforcement body-worn cameras have been put forth as a solution to help promote police accountability and deter misconduct by officers and the communities that they serve. The ACLU has been a leader in that fight, because we believe that with the right protections for privacy and accountability, body cameras can be a win-win for both police and the communities they serve.

It seems counterintuitive that the ACLU would oppose a police body camera bill. However, a bill in the Florida Senate (SB 248) would implement police-worn body cameras for all the wrong reasons and could keep footage of police misconduct from seeing the light of day.

[Tell your legislators to stand up for police accountability and oppose this misguided police camera bill!](#)

Police body cameras only serve as an effective tool for police oversight if the footage they record is accessible by the public. As written, SB 248 it would prevent the public release of body camera footage from ever being released to the public due to overly broad public records exemptions.

These exceptions are supposedly aimed to protect the privacy of citizens and the police, but are far too broad and could prevent the release of recorded video to be used as evidence of police misconduct even in the worst circumstances such as the use of excessive or deadly force. This loophole would even roll back strong body cameras policies recently launched in cities and counties across our state by allowing officers engaged in bad behavior to withhold incriminating evidence. Thank you for standing with us.

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

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF JOIN THE ACLU

4-15



The Humanities Institute of USF

Monday, Apr. 6

CWY 206 at 6:00 pm, reception to follow

Shakespeare, Tragedy, and Possessing Language,

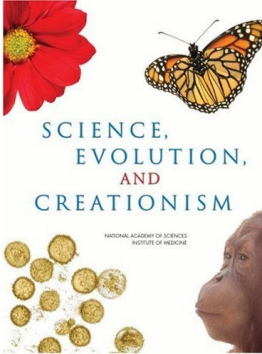
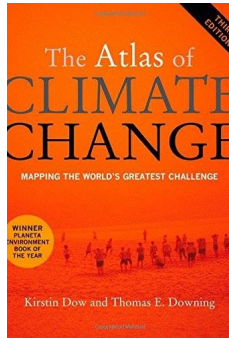


with Sarah Beckwith

We continue our annual Shakespeare series with a visit from renowned Duke University scholar Sarah Beckwith, who maintains that through Shakespeare, we can better understand the importance of being human. In her talk, Beckwith argues that "The rejection of all talk of the human has left the humanities pathetically enfeebled and almost defenseless against the combined but formidable onslaughts of the corporate university, the business model of education, and its own consequential abandonment of the common reader." She shows how Shakespeare offers us a way of talking about the human – not as either a metaphysical or biological entity to be scientifically established, nor as a definition that excludes non-rational creatures, but as a form of life to which we are fated. 4-15

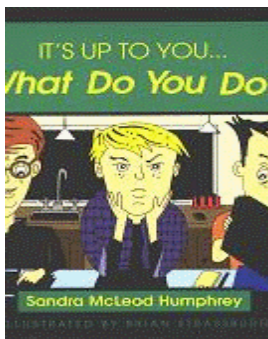
Meaningful Books

This highly acclaimed atlas distills the vast science of climate change, providing a reliable and insightful guide to this rapidly growing field. The extensive maps and graphics have been updated with new data, making this edition once again an essential resource for everyone concerned with this pressing subject. This is [the new edition](#).



From National Academy of Sciences comes this 3rd edition (2008). Excellent for young people and those confused by creationism or the Bible. You can download a pdf here, or order it in paperback: <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11876/science-evolution-and-creationism>

Ingersoll on CD: 2-CD set includes "About the Holy Bible" (1894) and "Why Am I an Agnostic?" (1889). The complete texts, without one word omitted ... performed with an oratorical flourish that does justice to Ingersoll's mighty words. Plus an introduction that places Ingersoll and freethought into the context of America's Gilded Age. Two complete works of Ingersoll performed in our time! 2-CD Set, \$12. [Click here to order](#)



One of an acclaimed series of critical thinking family books for parents and children aged 4 to 8, for discussing everyday situations so children can be prepared for them. Available [here](#).

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!

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

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	Piattelli & Palmarini
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?	Fittrakis, 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 Finzel
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

Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter for a special meeting on the birthdays of Thomas Jefferson and Christopher Hitchens on **Sunday, April 12th** See the [AoF Meetup](#) for details.

AOF had its annual meeting in which members sat down with the board to discuss what was wanted from the organization. It was a very productive meeting and lots of great ideas were discussed. You will be seeing those ideas put into action over the next year. It's not too late for you to make suggestions on what you would like to see AOF address over the next year, just email

BOD@Atheistsoffloridainc.org

After the membership meeting, the AOF board had its annual meeting, in which they:

Gave the President's Volunteer of the Year recognition to Galen Matson.

Two new Board of Director Members were welcomed, Galen Matson and Eileen Stafford.

Elected Officers –

President – Judy Adkins

Vice President – Chris Brown

Secretary – Eileen Stafford

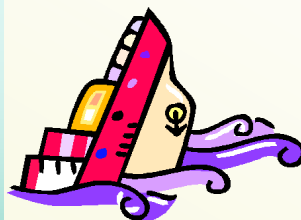
Treasurer – Nan Owens

Lifetime memberships awarded – Due to their continued support of Atheists of Florida Inc., two people were granted free Lifetime memberships: Tracy Thomas and Ed M.

Set Annual Membership Dues – The board adopted a modified “**Pay What You Want**” model – other than a minimum of \$5, you can pay whatever you want for a one year membership. You can join AOF by going to the [Membership](#) page on our website, Atheistsoffloridainc.org. Lifetime memberships were kept at \$300 (which includes a partner at the same address.)

A budget was also adopted for 2015 by the Board

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. 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



Unbooked!

We regret to announce that the fall Freethought Cruise announced in January has been canceled due to an administrative error with the cruise line.

Coordinator Judy Segall says that another excursion is being organized for June of next year. She will be contacting those previously signed up. **Also, watch these pages for more details on the “replacement cruise”.** Ms Segall can be contacted at Ph: [\(407\)331-5008](tel:(407)331-5008)

End loneliness and social isolation...

Join a freethought group Today!

The latest issue of the journal “[Perspectives in Psychological Science](#)” has a special section devoted to a series of articles on the topic of loneliness. A lot of research has been done on the subject in a short period of time, says special issue editor David Sbarra, a psychological scientist at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

He writes that “as the world’s population ages, there is an increased and understandable focus on (objective and perceived) social isolation.”

Perhaps the most unnerving article in the bunch, out of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, is titled “Loneliness and Social Isolation as Risk Factors for Mortality: A Meta-Analytic Review.”

The authors reviewed 24 years worth of studies about how loneliness, social isolation or living alone affect mortality. They concluded that both actual and perceived social isolation are associated with an increased risk of early death.

Lifestyle habits like smoking and inactivity are known risk factors for poor health and early death, but social habits are as big — if not bigger — as risk factors, according to their findings.

“The risk associated with social isolation and loneliness is comparable with well-established risk factors for mortality, including those identified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (physical activity, obesity, substance abuse, responsible sexual behavior, mental health, injury and violence, environmental quality, immunization, and access to health care),” the article concluded. **5-15**



Compassion & Choices
Choice & Care at the End of Life.

Hospices in Hillsborough County: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-hillsborough-county-florida>

Pinellas: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pinellas-county-florida>

Pasco: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pasco-county-florida>

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Monthly Meetup Day: Third Tuesday at 7 PM

Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com

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

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008. Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM .

Monday, April 20:
How Does American Culture Compare to others of the West?

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 Humanist Approach to Happiness*.

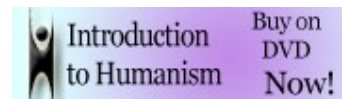


Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings 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](#). Thank you!

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



Humanist Economics?

Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life, that without super-naturalism affirms our ability to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity. It is impossible to separate the philosophy from our economic lives or in how we want to organize our economies.

The problem is that we Humanists don't agree on much. In fact, famous economists Karl Marx and Friedrich Hayek were both Humanists. Both advocated for economic systems they thought would best maximize the freedom and welfare of their fellow humans. And yet, what they advocated for is pretty much the exact opposite of one another.

If Humanists can't agree, then why even have this conversation? Whether we like it or not, we have this conversation all the time. The question is—how are we going to judge whether one system or method is better than other if we have no philosophic basis on which to judge what is good and what isn't.

And, it's pretty clear that the assumptions people have been making about how to best run an economy haven't yielded very good results. In fact even if you ignore the gross income disparities that have arisen in the last few decades, we still have to reckon with the fact that what we have now, is an entirely unstable economic system that needs to be fixed. Greedy self-interest, it turns out, is not a very good organizing principle.

Humanism really can help provide us with a way of viewing human economic activity that is at once supportive of individual development AND supportive of the community in which all this economic activity is embedded. This is WHY everyone is talking about it.

As a starting guide, I want to quote *Humanist Manifesto II* (written in 1973).

"Humane societies should evaluate economic systems not by rhetoric or ideology, but by whether or not they increase economic well-being for all individuals and groups, minimize poverty and hardship, increase the sum of human satisfaction, and enhance the quality of life. Hence the door is open to alternative economic systems. We need to democratize the economy and judge it by its responsiveness to human needs, testing results in terms of the common good."

I may be biased, but I do think this statement provides us with a good starting place. What we want is a system that helps increase wellbeing for individuals, minimizes poverty and privation, and enhances the quality of life for everyone.

What a call for Humanistic business management means is that instead of judging good based on profits we judge good based on how business impacts people. Instead of promoting growth for growth's sake, we should instead be considering how that growth will impact our communities and our customers and our employees.

This isn't a way to reject the idea of profits as important. It's not about either or. It's about doing both. It's about balancing more than just the bottom line. A Humanistic approach to business is about balancing profits WITH human welfare. One doesn't come at the expense of the other. But when in doubt, human welfare comes first!

AH Appignani Humanist LC Legal Center

[Appignani Humanist Legal Center](#) provides legal assistance to defend the constitutional rights of religious and secular minorities by directly challenging clear violations of the Establishment Clause and seeking equal rights for humanists, atheists and other freethinkers.

- ◆ ◆ [Uphold the Rights of Same-Sex Couples, Says Humanist Group to U.S. Supreme Court](#) March 5, 2015 – The Appignani Humanist Legal Center has filed an amicus curiae brief on Obergefell v. Hodges.
- ◆ ◆ [Humanist Group Defends Right of Maine Student to Sit Out the Pledge of Allegiance](#) March 9, 2015 – The American Humanist Association continues its Pledge boycott to remove “under God.”



Secular Coalition for Florida is unlike any other nontheistic state organization—it brings together organizations and individuals for the express purpose of *lobbying government officials* on your behalf. If your organization supports our mission statement, please sign up [here](#). Volunteer activists are wanted!



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

the Institute for Science and Human Values
Presents
Perspectives on Death and Dying Symposium

Dying Without Deity

April 10 & 11, 2015

• Save The Date •

To date there has been little discussion and less research as to how self believers experience the dying process and death. What are some of the problems and discrimination Secular Humanists face during one of life's most difficult journeys? How widespread are these problems and what can be done to alleviate them? How does one access support when it is needed? To this end the **Institute for Science and Human Values (ISHV)** is sponsoring “Dying Without Deity”- **Perspectives on Dying and Death Symposium, at Columbia University, April 10 and 11th, 2015.**

Dying Without Deity promises to be an eye opening symposium. These topics have not been explored in one place, at one time, anywhere before. Walk out of Columbia University one of a few self believers informed and armed with solutions to deal with many of the end of life issues that our communities face.

ISHV is extending a ten percent discount for early registration. Stay at the Aloft Hotel for only \$199 a night available until March 8. Hurry! Don't miss out on these reduced prices. Register today. And yes, ISHV is offering the discount on the membership price, too.

Click here for details: [Perspectives on Death and Dying Symposium](#)



August 2-8 in Holland, NY.

Details on [Facebook](#).

Please [email us](#) for specific questions about camp.



Freethinkers@USF is a multi-cultural, 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** at:
freethinkersusf@gmail.com.



Neil deGrasse Tyson's new show "Star Talk" debuts in April on the National Geographic Channel.
Among the first guests: President Jimmy Carter, "Interstellar" director Christopher Nolan, evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield, Arianna Huffington, George Takei, and TV pioneer Norman Lear.

Climate Change Hope or Delusion?

Posted on March 20, 2015 * [Leave a comment](#). By Minda Berbeco, Science League of America

I have a running debate with one of my friends about climate change, and it is all about the policy. Should we have a carbon tax? Cap and trade? Greater energy efficiency requirements?

There are so many options, and they are all fabulously fun to debate. But one thing that always comes up in our discussions is can anything work? Even if the US institutes an effective policy, what about China? If China follows suit, would India reduce its emissions too? And even if we are able to reduce emissions, which we have done in the past during economic downturns, would we be able to lower them during a time of global economic prosperity? Is it really something that can be sustained?

I argued for hope, he argued I was deluded, and inevitably disillusionment kicked in. Maybe he was right; how could we ever dramatically reduce our energy emissions without a unified global plan? And a unified global plan seems like a total impossibility.

But then something interesting popped into my newsfeed this week. *The New York Times* published [a story](#) reporting that emissions from energy makers (like power plants) globally have leveled off for the first time during a period of economic growth. This, it seems, has turned all of our arguments upside down. So how did we do it?

From [the article](#):

“Dr. Birol [the International Energy Agency’s chief economist and incoming executive director] noted that many nations have promoted energy efficiency and low-carbon energy sources like hydroelectric, solar, wind and nuclear power. China, he noted, has worked to reduce carbon emissions as part of an intensive effort to limit environmental damage from economic development. That China appears to be successfully moving down that path, he said, portends well for the deal struck with the United States in November. China committed in that

agreement to turning around its **12** growth in carbon emissions by 2030, or earlier if possible, while increasing the share of non-fossil fuels in energy production to 20 percent of its menu.”

Here we are without a cohesive global political plan to reduce emissions, in a time of economic growth, and our emissions have not continued to explode; rather they’ve leveled off. This is a direct challenge to the arguments that such reductions are not only impossible but also would be economically devastating.

But before I start waving the “I told you so” flag, there are a lot of caveats, and the article is quick to point them out. First and foremost, we know that “One year does not a trend make.” This could be a blip on the radar, and only time will tell whether we continue to level off or even reduce our emissions. Moreover the article points out that these gains could be wiped out within a year if we don’t start replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy—and the technologies we need may not have been developed yet. So, maybe a good year, but may we hope for a good decade, century, or future? The article was not so sure.

So we can probably agree that this is not a slam-dunk, but a good first step. What I like about the article, though, is that it turned my climate change “delusion” that we can actually enact change into evidence-based climate change hope—we did it once; could next year be a replay?

Source: <http://ncse.com/blog/2015/03/climate-change-hope-delusion-0016234>

Show off your commitment to Science and Reason! Tampa CFI is offering these great license plate surrounds Fits all US plates - easy to install Now only \$15.

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Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology
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Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Dave 'Doc' Dockery President

Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org *We repair our members computers for Free!*



Rick O'Keefe

Reason for Change

A CFI Conference in Buffalo, New York

June 11–15, 2015 – [Register](#)

Science, reason, and secularism can be positive forces for change, especially when guided by the values of skepticism and humanism and driven by the passion and creativity of a vibrant freethought community.

Join us at the Center for Inquiry for “[Reason for Change](#),” an international conference where humanists, skeptics, and all those who value science and reason will meet to inform and inspire one another to be a positive force for change.

[Details—get the best prices!](#)

What is Tampa Bay Skeptics?

Founded in 1988, Tampa Bay Skeptics is a nonprofit educational and scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of **paranormal** and **fringe-science** claims, and the dissemination of factual information about such claims. In 2004, TBS became a Special Interest Group of the [Center For Inquiry–Tampa Bay](#).

TBS c/o O'Keefe, 4011 S. Manhattan Ave., Box 139, Tampa, FL 33611-1277

Click to simply join our [TBS e-mail list\(s\)](#)? Or order [TBS T-shirts](#)?

[Next meeting: Sunday, April 26, 2015](#)

Join CFI–Tampa Bay & Humanist Society of the Suncoast to hear **Greg Rosasco** on Saturday, April 4, 2015, 2:00 PM at the Countryside Library, 2741 State Rd. 580, Clearwater, FL ([map](#)). **Topic:** The ethical use of shared non-renewable resources. How can the commons be harvested and developed in a socially ethical manner, or is that even possible?

Support [CFI–Tampa Bay](#), keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, and become a member!



BECOME A MEMBER: Click the *Join Now* button above to join or renew your membership. When you make a donation to CFI–Tampa Bay you become a member of a local and worldwide movement of humanists, skeptics, atheists, and freethinkers, all working together to give voice to your values.

PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OTHERS.



VACCINATE.

www.safeandsecular.org



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

Applying investigation and reason to current issues, the most widely read publication, [Skeptical Inquirer](#), keeps thinkers informed.

The Secular Humanist magazine, [Free Inquiry](#), delves into all facets of humanity. Nothing is off limits.

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.

“Skeptic does not mean him who doubts, but him who investigates or researches as opposed to him who asserts and thinks that he has found.” – Miguel de Unamuno, “Essays and Soliloquies,” 1924



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

To the Honourable Representative Sam Johnson, Texas:

On behalf of the **United Coalition of Reason**, including its 80 local cooperating group, composed of nearly 800 local cooperating national partners, we are appalled and disappointed that you have proposed this bill. You seem to have turned your eyes against the fact that there is a growing population of people in America who are nontheistic. You also seem to have turned your eyes against the fact that there is a diversity in America in terms of sincerely-held belief in that some of UnitedCoR's friends and partners are polytheistic.

America is not a theocracy, and to propose such legislation is tantamount to destroying the very legal fabric through our beloved Bill of Rights in that Congress shall make no religious test... The Elizabethan "Test Acts" caused havoc and death in England, and many of our Founding Figures (your use of "founding fathers" is so sexist!!) left England for the very purpose of religious liberty, including freedom AGAINST religion: the State-imposed religion of the Church of England that called anybody, other than Church of England members, "non-conformists." This was grounds for treason against the crown, and many were executed for this offense. Unfortunately, you have either ignored, or are ignorant of this facet of history, despite loving and caring people like Rev. Dr. Harry Leon McBeth whose work clearly demonstrated these truths (<http://www.amazon.com/English-Baptist-Literatu.../0405124430>).

Your proposed legislation also divides our country in that you are obviously ignoring the diversity of sincerely-held beliefs in America. Should our Muslim friends and neighbours wish to say "So help me Allah?" (<http://video.foxnews.com/.../outrage-after-school-recites-p.../...>), you would likely be disturbed and offended. Yet, our Muslim

friends and neighbours have just as much right to say this as our Christian friends. If you favour one sincerely-held belief over another, you have placed yourself to be vulnerable to impeachment, which, judging from some of what we have seen below, some commentators would welcome. What would you do if one of our Hindu friends and neighbours were to pledge "So help me Shiva?" Would you even understand this? Do you truly understand religions beyond those who respect the corpus of 66 agree-upon books that comprise the [Protestant] Bible?

You may wish to re-think your strategy here, Honourable Representative. Too many people have suffered enough discrimination hearing "There are no atheists in foxholes," as they are everywhere else (<http://unitedcor.org/.../hard-cor-news-%E2%80%93-march-2015...>). They serve honourably, take care of their families, do their role for the defense and well-being of our country, and yet, they deserve FAR BETTER than this pitiful proposed legislation that you have put forward. Whose purpose are you serving, Representative? It clearly is not an American purpose, as to be an American, you would have recognised that there are others out here who are not "like you," and who deserve equal rights before the law, rather than the nullification and legalised discrimination authored by you.

Follow this item, and share, at United Coalition of Reason <https://www.facebook.com/CoalitionOfReason?fref=ts>.

MAAF maintains a roster of [Atheists in Foxholes](#), just in case there are any rumors that we don't exist. The next time you hear someone repeat that old myth, just send them [here](#) to see how atheists have served honorably in combat - always have, always will.

Days of Special Interest
April is National Humor Month
 Starting on the first, of course.

- 6th Plan your Epitaph Day
- 7th World Health Day
- 13th Jefferson, Hitchens, B'day
- 14th Look up at the Sky Day
- 16th National high 5 Day
- 17th National Cheeseball Day
- 22nd Earth Day
- 25th World Penguin Day



TBCoR Leadership Team 2015

Mark Brandt, Judy Adkins, Chris Brown, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas
 UUCH TBS-AoF MAF TBHF CFI HSS, TBPC AoF

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Be Included!

Group members are invited to send items for this Newsletter. Please send to: tbcornews@metrodirect.net
 For calendar items, include URL for group or event.

Tampa Bay CoR

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