



# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News

See Pg 5

Vol. 4 No. 6 June, 2015 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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### Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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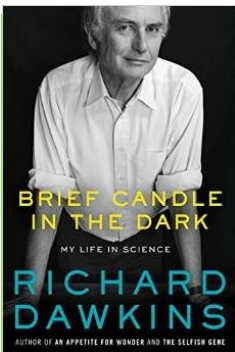
[Jim Peterson](#)

#### Special Projects

Mark Brandt, Judy Adkins, & Bill Norsworthy



[Click to connect!](#)



Coming in October...Sponsored by Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

## Dr. Richard Dawkins *A Brief Candle in the Dark*

In this hugely entertaining sequel to the New York Times bestselling memoir *An Appetite for Wonder*, Richard Dawkins delves deeply into his intellectual life spent kick-starting new conversations about science, culture, and religion and writing yet another of the most audacious and widely read books of the twentieth century—*The God Delusion*. The book will be released on September 29th.

### Doctor Dawkins is coming to Clearwater October 10th!

**Although plans are not finalized at this writing**, you can get your copy and get the author's autograph through TB CoR at a special Meet the Author event on October 10th at the Clearwater UU Octagon. Your ticket will admit you to the event and get you a copy of the book. No book other than that provided through the event will be autographed. Watch these pages for Confirmation.

See next page for more...



Hear Producer of HBO's *Going Clear*

**Tony Ortega**  
On

### Scientology

June 28th 2 PM  
At Clearwater Main Library

Tony Ortega is executive editor of the Raw Story and is formerly the editor of The Village Voice. He's written critically about Scientology since 1995, and has a forthcoming book about the subject. He continues to monitor breaking developments in the Scientology world from an undisclosed location in an underground bunker he shares with four cats and one wrinkly Shar Pei dog.

Mr. Ortega's appearance is sponsored by CFI & TB Skeptics.

Co-sponsored by TB-CoR.



With the creative insight of *Steve Brown*, **The Humanist Society of the Suncoast** will sponsor and host a commemoration of

### World Humanist Day

2 PM on June 21, 2015, to take place in the auditorium of the St. Petersburg Main Public Library at 3745 Ninth Ave. North.

Co-sponsored by TB-CoR

More on Page 2 inside

## YOU'RE INVITED !!!

It's time! Time for us to celebrate Humanism boldly under its own name. We've become accustomed to deferring to "reason" and "science" in our commemorative events as if those essential elements represent all there is to say about us. Perhaps we were made shy by attempts in past years in some right wing circles to make "humanism" a "dirty" word.

Circumstances change. Only this month a new Pew Research report re-emphasizes that disaffiliation from traditional religious institutions continues to increase in the U.S., and suggests a growing need for shared values that grow out of direct human experience and the much more informed knowledge of the natural world than existed when our main religious traditions were born many centuries ago.

Please come and participate as part of a program featuring a 'round-the-world tour of the ways humanism is conceived and presented ("marketed," if you will) by humanist groups internationally, in the U.S., and especially in Florida.

Listen to views expressed by leaders of area groups in panel discussion and express your own. Is humanism a personal philosophy or a shared world-view and way of life ready to take its place among the number of life-stances that characterize cultures around the world?

Is humanism "Eight Letters -- No More!?" That is, need it be modified by adjectives of any kind, such as "secular?" Always with a capital "H?" Does "one-size" now fit all?

And share a few moments honoring Humanist "elders" and pioneers who live in our local communities.

We launch this modest effort in the hope that it will inspire other Florida groups to take up the celebration of World Humanist Day.

**World Humanist Day** celebrations were initiated by several state associations in the U.S. in the 1980s, and subsequently the day was recognized and the date fixed as June 21 jointly by the American Humanist Association (AHA) and the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU).

For some time the day has been promoted largely by the IHEU, a network of well over 100 organizations around the world, many of them networks as well, including in the U.S., the AHA, American Ethical Union, Center for Inquiry, Institute for Science and Human Values and the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

Steve Brown is the man behind the scenes and main organizer of this World Humanist Day observance.

Steve has a long and active history of involvement with the Humanist movement as a way of life over the past 60 years.

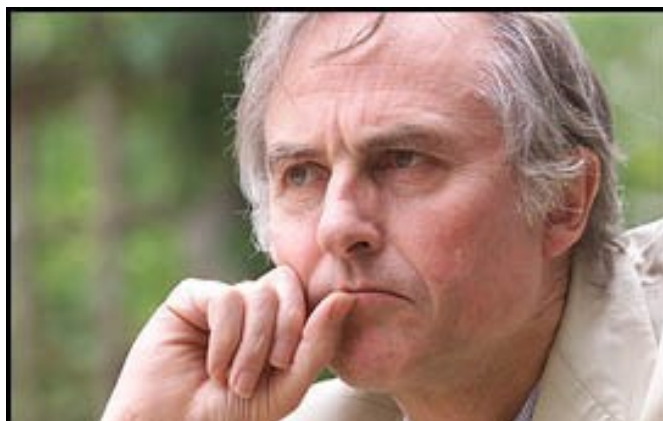


## Richard Dawkins

Called "one of the best nonfiction writers alive today" (Stephen Pinker,) Dawkins offers a candid look at the events and ideas that encouraged him to shift his attention to the intersection of culture, religion, and science. He also invites the reader to look more closely at the brilliant succession of ten influential books that grew naturally out of his busy life, highlighting the ideas that connect them and excavating their origins.

On the publication of his tenth book, the smash hit, *The God Delusion*, a "resounding trumpet blast for truth" (Matt Ridley), Richard Dawkins was catapulted from mere intellectual stardom into a circle of celebrity thinkers dubbed, "The New Atheists"—including Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, and Daniel Dennett.

Throughout, Dawkins shares with us his infectious sense of wonder at the natural world, his enjoyment of the absurdities of human interaction, and his bracing awareness of life's brevity: all of which have made a deep imprint on our culture.



**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.

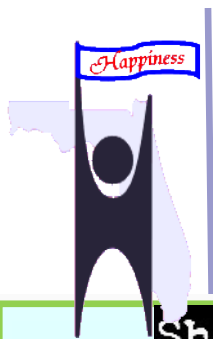
We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason and its director, Jason Heap. You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected in Tampa Bay and across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God Millions 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](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

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





# The Humanist Society<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)

Volume 23 No. 6 June, 2015

~ *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](mailto: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



## Shade in the Sunshine State

Reflections on Segregation in Florida



vol. 1  
Ed: Robert Hampton Colman



## Liz Coursen

**Shade in the Sunshine State: Reflections on Segregation in Florida**, is a powerful history of segregation in Florida, alternating between first-person remembrances and real-life visual images of contemporaneous advertising, postcards, and newspaper articles. Particular attention will be given to the time between the start of WWII (late 1930s) and the time after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Topics will include the Rosenwald Schools of Florida; Jackie Robinson's minor league baseball debut in Sanford and Daytona Beach; Ft. Lauderdale's 1961 "wade-in"; Jacksonville's 1960 sit-in; the exclusion of Jews from hotels all over the state; the integration of Florida schools; and even a science fiction book.

The take away from this lecture is two-fold. First, all Americans of a "certain age" have memories of segregation, regardless of where they lived, segregation is part of American history. Second, no matter how far we very well may have to come, there is no doubt, and "Shade in the Sunshine State" will make this very clear, there is no doubt that in the past fifty years America as a nation, and Americans as individuals have come a long, long way in ensuring equal rights for all. There is progress to be made, but the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts is a good opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made.



**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](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com) Thanx.

Please join us at  
2 PM June 6th  
at

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

Many members  
go to dinner  
afterwards at the  
Chop Sticks Rest.  
2543 Countryside  
Blvd. Alcohol avail.





## 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 June 20th**

Our next discussion will consider



Quilliam is the world's first counter-extremism think tank set up to address the unique challenges of citizenship, identity, and belonging in a globalised world. Quilliam stands for religious freedom, equality, human rights and democracy.

Challenging extremism is the duty of all responsible members of society. Not least because cultural insularity and extremism are products of the failures of wider society to foster a shared sense of belonging and to advance liberal democratic values. With Islamist extremism in particular, we believe a more self-critical approach must be adopted by Muslims. Westophobic ideological influences and social insularity needs to be challenged within Muslim communities by Muslims themselves whilst simultaneously, an active drive towards creating an inclusive civic identity must be pursued by all members of society.

Quilliam seeks to challenge what we think, and the way we think. It aims to generate creative, informed and inclusive discussions to counter the ideological underpinnings of terrorism, whilst simultaneously providing evidence-based recommendations to governments for related policy measures. See: <http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/>

### Join the Tampa Humanist Association!

Our next meeting after this, on July 18th, will consider the question of how to make the philosophical and social tools of Humanism more useful in Tampa.

JP

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.  
Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)



## Another Humanist Discussion group forms in east Tampa

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UU Humanists of Tampa - Public Discussion, 2nd Wed. eve from 7 -9 PM and on the 4th Sun. Morning 9:45 - 10:45.

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](mailto:debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us)

**Gale Barron**

[gfbshb@aol.com](mailto: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

*“Well, I'll put it this way: you can certainly say belief in God makes people behave worse. That can be proved beyond a doubt.”*

*Christopher Hitchens*

**Doubts about religion? You're one of many.**

**AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR HUMANISM**

Learn more at [WeAreAAH.org](http://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](#)

## This Can't be happening!

A tectonic shift is occurring suddenly in the debate over climate change.

Only a few years ago, at least in the US corporate media, there was always a rough equivalence accorded to those experts who were warning about a looming climate disaster facing mankind, and those who called the whole thing a "conspiracy" by corrupt scientists and politicians (without ever explaining what the motive would have been).

Suddenly, though, that rough equivalence in the coverage is gone. The climate deniers are now exposed as charlatans in the pay of energy companies, and the coverage has shifted to talking about climate disaster being closer than we had been being told. If there is a "conspiracy," we are now learning, it may be that climate scientists, afraid of creating a sense of hopelessness and doom among the public, have been soft-pedaling their warnings, stressing the need to quickly cut back on the use of greenhouse-gas-producing fuels in order to try and keep global warming below 2 degrees centigrade (roughly 4 degrees Fahrenheit), when they all really know that a 4-degree centigrade rise is already "baked into" the earth's near-term climate future, perhaps by as early as 2100.

This shift has yet to make its way into the public's consciousness in the US (and much of the rest of the world too), but it is clearly going to happen. The question then will be: how will governments, and more importantly, the people of the world, respond to the new much grimmer reality?

Clearly, the capitalist system, fully corrupted at this point because of the size to which global corporations have grown, and the power they have gained to buy governments, cannot and will not rescue humanity from itself. Just look at the latest news from the Shell Oil Company, where internal documents just released show that company scientists have assured top executives that global warming in the far north means Shell can aggressively lease tracts of the formerly ice-bound Arctic Ocean and move floating platforms up there to extract even more oil and gas from the newly ice-free seafloor. These documents flatly declare that a 2°C temperature rise is passe and that a 4°C rise is already in the cards, moving towards a staggering 6° C rise (note for US readers: that is an almost 11°F temperature rise globally!).

The notion that corporations and a capitalist politico-economic system could ever take the necessary steps to halt climate disaster, for example by adopting energy conservation and becoming "green" companies, was always a pipedream. Just "going green," while still producing unneeded junk and continuing to try and grow would never reduce total carbon emissions. It would require massively scaling back the production of useless or polluting goods and

services, and shutting down many operations. And while the current US Supreme Court majority may think, or pretend to think, that corporations are people, they actually are institutions that are by their very nature and structure devoid of conscience, devoid of morality, and even devoid of any sense of long-term self-preservation"

*For the rest of this article by DAVE LINDORFF in*

*ThisCantBeHappening!, the new independent, uncompromised, five-time Project Censored Award-winning online alternative newspaper, please go to: [www.thiscantbehappening.net/node/2761](http://www.thiscantbehappening.net/node/2761)*

~ Ω ~

## On the Inevitability of the Great Transition

Our civilization was built by people who successfully conquered, colonized, and exploited, then moved elsewhere to do the same thing yet again. Because we are enjoying a one-time gift of fossil fuels that empower us to do things no previous society ever dreamed of, we have come to believe in our own omnipotence, exceptionalism, and invincibility. But we have now run out of new places to conquer, the best of the fossil fuels are used up, and the environmental consequences of burning them are starting to catch up with us.

We can learn from crisis; cultural anthropology shows that. But, in this instance, we need to learn fast, and perhaps some organized effort to aid that process would be well spent. Planetary boundaries discourse could help explain to frightened masses why the world seems to be falling apart around them, while community resilience-building could help them adapt to changed conditions.



## Letters of Distinction

### Some of our best writers published in our local media

#### Parents have less control 5/19/15

Credit the Internet and cellphones for the declining religiosity in America and throughout the world wherever it is not censored. Until recently, families have had local control of the information their children received. Now, even many preschoolers have access to the Internet and cellphones, greatly expanding access to information parents have shielded them from in the past. It is much harder now to indoctrinate young children in the religion of their parents.

There are no such things as Christian children, Muslim children or atheist children. There are only children of Christian, Muslim or atheist parents. Today's children are learning this lesson much earlier and are questioning why there are so many differences, relying more on science and less on biased history, to sort them out.

**Frank Prahl, St. Petersburg  
Tampa Bay Times**

*Send us your letters, published or not.*

## 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](mailto:bnorsworthy@verizon.net)  
Mark Brandt [mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu)  
Web site: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)



Clearwater, Florida

### Come to our Summer Social

July 17th at Benedicts in Dunedin  
at 6PM limit of 50 (FCFS)

## 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



The Tampa Bay Times' [recent disclosure](#) that police are targeting Blacks who ride bicycles — including *children as young as three years old* — for dramatically high rates of stops and searches is the latest piece in the nationwide debate about racial profiling that has followed the police-involved deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, and countless others.

Communities across the country are connecting the deluge of incidents in which police use force against Blacks (or, as in Gray's case, show gross disregard for Black life) to everyday interactions in which police stop, frisk, and search Blacks and Latinos because of their race, rather than evidence of wrongdoing — a practice well-documented in [New York](#), [Boston](#), [Philadelphia](#), and [Ferguson](#). The latest reports from Tampa underscore just how little progress has been made in rooting out racial profiling and how the routine over-policing of communities of color can lead to interactions that tragically devolve into the use of force.

The Tampa Police Department should also [accept the invitation](#) of civil rights groups and faith leaders to discuss bicycle enforcement and reforms to address racial disparities in policing. And it should stop issuing bicycle tickets until an investigation identifies the source of the problem, to prevent the needless issuance of tickets for minor infractions.

6-15

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T  
PROTECT ITSELF  
[JOIN THE ACLU](#)



## The Humanities Institute at USF

<http://humanities-institute.usf.edu/about/>

**Challenge, Create, Connect:** Our new motto focuses our commitment to bring the beauty, values, and lessons of the humanities to USF and our community.

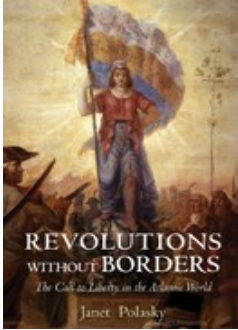
The USF Humanities Institute, established in 2003, provides a forum where ideas are debated, values are clarified, and students, faculty, and community come together to envision a better world through scholarship, debate, and public programs.

We showcase the scholarship of USF faculty from across the disciplines, as well as hosting renowned scholars and sponsoring small conferences and symposia on topics developed with faculty and students. We are developing distinctive signature themes, and strengthening our focus on relevance and community engagement, demonstrating that the joy and challenge of the humanities belong to everyone.

As part of our mission to encourage important research in the humanities, the Institute provides summer grants for humanities-focused research projects. Following the National Endowment for the Humanities, we foster a broad and inclusive definition of humanities, to include the contributions of scholars in language, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, religion, ethics, arts, and humanistic social sciences.

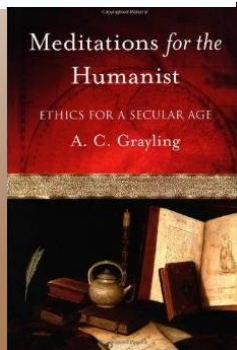


## Meaningful Books

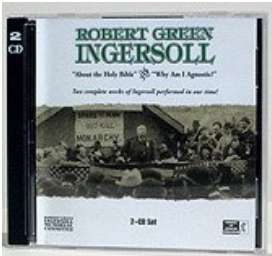


Revolutionaries want to tear down walls. Between 1776, when America declared independence, and 1804, when Haiti at last threw off the yoke of French rule, the compartments and divisions of established power became everyone's target. This book assiduously describes how, just as the doctrine of the universal rights of man seized the Western world, so too did an irrepressible iconoclasm.

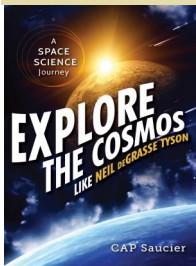
Magnanimity is in short supply," writes A. C. Grayling is this wonderfully incisive book, "but it is the main ingredient in everything that makes the world a better place" And indeed *Meditations for the Humanist: Ethics for a Secular Age* is itself a generous, insightful, wide-ranging, magnanimous inquiry .... [Order](#)



**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](#)



**Thoughts of a Freethinker** is the second book of local Humanist writer, *Michael Kaye*. Pensive considerations from an unencumbered mind lurking in the fresh air just outside the box. Order it from [Amazon](#), or at your local book monger.



One of an acclaimed series of books for parents and children. [Neil DeGrasse Tyson](#) takes youngsters through the Universe. Includes awesome images from the Hubble Space Telescope 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 Lending Library

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

#### # TITLE

#### 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 God. | G. Harrison                     |
| 29. Mathematics and Politics                     | Alan Taylor                     |
| 30. Stealing Elections                           | John Fund                       |
| 31. The God Virus                                | Darrel Ray                      |
| 32. What Every American Should Know About World  | Rossi                           |
| 33. Imagine There's no Heaven                    | Editors of Free Inquiry         |
| 34. Hidden Order                                 | David Friedman                  |
| 35. What the Dog Saw                             | Malcom Gladwell                 |
| 36. Sway   | Ori, Rom Brafman                |
| 37. The Better Angels of our Nature              | Steven Pinker                   |
| 38. Letter to a Young Contrarian                 | Christopher Hitchens            |
| 39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded                       | Thomas Friedman                 |
| 40. Gaming the Vote                              | William Poundstone              |
| 41. Subversion Fable                             | Alexa KcKearing                 |
| 43. Evolution and the Big Question               | David Stamos                    |
| 44. Why People Believe Weird Things              | Michael Shermer                 |
| 45. The World is Curved                          | David Snick                     |
| 46. The Snow Ball                                | Warren Buffett                  |
| 47. The Moral Landscape                          | Sam Harris                      |
| 48. How We Believe                               | Michael Shermer                 |
| 49. Full House                                   | Steven Jay Gould                |
| 50. The Origins of Political Order               | Francis Fukuyama                |
| 51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible                  | Isaac Asimov                    |
| 52. Autobiography of Mark Twain                  | Harriet Smith, Editor           |
| 53. Science Friction                             | Michael Shermer                 |
| 54. Genius                                       | James Gleick                    |
| 55. Inevitable Illusions                         | Piatrelli & 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?                       | 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                         |
| 79. <b>Thoughts of a Freethinker</b> <b>New!</b> | Kaye                            |



# Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter **Sunday, June 14th** as we get together to celebrate our revamped website and enjoy each other's company at our quarterly social lunch : See the [AoF Meetup](#) for details.

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 unexamined traditional beliefs. JP



## Enter the AoF 'Design our T-shirt' Contest!

**Prizes:** 1st place – this design will be adopted as the official t-shirt for AOF for one year. The designer will receive two free t-shirts. 2nd place – this design will be used to help “market” AOF. The designer will receive one free t-shirt of the 1st place design. All entries will have an acknowledgement on our website and a mention in the newsletter. Ends May 31st. Enter now!

The winners may, at their option, also have a short bio and a photo published on our website and in the newsletter and a one year membership in AOF. For complete entry info, see: <http://atheistsoffloridainc.org/tshirt/>

Save the date...

## FreeFlo 2015

### Florida Humanist Conference

- **Friday, November 6, 2015 5:00 PM, to Sunday, November 8, 2015, 5:00 PM**
- [Holiday Inn Orlando-International- Airport, 5750 T.G. Lee Blvd, Orlando, FL](#) ([map](#))

Speakers (subject to change, more info and descriptions below taken from: <http://www.floridahumanist.org/>):

**Dan Barker**, Author of *Life Driven Purpose: How an Atheist Finds Meaning and Godless: How an Evangelical Preacher Became One of America's Leading Atheists* and Co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation

**Anthony Pinn**, Professor, prolific author, Director of Research at the Institute for Humanist Studies and Founding Director of the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning.

**David Tamayo**, President of the Hispanic American Freethinkers  
**Sarah Morehead**, Executive Director at Recovering From Religion & President of the Reason Rally Coalition

**Seth Andrews**, Author of *Sacred Cows – a Lighthearted Look at Belief and Tradition around the World* and *Deconverted: A Journey from Religion to Reason* as well as host of *The Thinking Atheist*

**Katherine Stewart**, Journalist and author of the *Good News Club*  
**Bo Bennet**, Author of *The Concept & Logically Fallacious*, co-host of *The Humanist Hour* and blogger at *Relationship with Reason*

**Dr. Ryan Cragun**, Professor and author of books such as *How to Defeat Religion in 10 Easy Steps* and *What You Don't Know about Religion (but should)*

**Robyn Blumner**, Editorial writer and President and Executive Director of the Richard Dawkins Foundation  
**Stewart Huff**, Comedian



**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](mailto: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.

June 15: **Topic:** TBA

Meetup site: [www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/](http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/)

## 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](http://www.maaf.info)

Contact: Chris  
( [christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:christbrown@yahoo.com) )  
MSgt, USAF (Retired) Co-Organizer:  
MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists  
(MASH) MacDill AFB, FL

## Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

**Jennifer Hancock** started 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*.

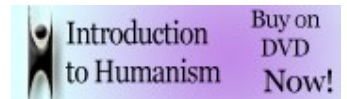


Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings 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](https://www.facebook.com/). See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.

## Parenting without Punishment



I have never hit my kid. Well, not never. I did one time whack him when he bit my butt, but that was an accident. I was doing dishes when he bit me and I wheel around to see what it was and accidentally hit him in the process. We both cried quite a bit as a result.

What I mean to say is I've never used physical punishment on my child. My son is intelligent, well behaved and a joy to be around. He's 9 and he's reasonably well disciplined. I say reasonably because I still have to keep track of his homework and remind him to do it. But, he's only 9, I'm pretty sure he will eventually have enough self-discipline to be responsible for those tasks too.

Given how many parents seem to think hitting kids and physical punishment is necessary to raising a well-disciplined kid, I have to wonder if maybe their definition of discipline is different from mine. To me discipline isn't imposed by others, it is self-discipline that is the ideal. I was able to help my son become such a pleasant well behaved kid because I taught him how to choose to be good for himself. If I had tried to force him to obey me through the use of physical punishment he would have never become self-disciplined.

Hitting kids to get them to obey you is a form of bullying. It's abusive. It's unnecessary and it's counterproductive to the goal of raising well behaved kids who have sufficient self-discipline to behave well without the threat of punishment.

I'm not alone in thinking this. The American Psychological Association agrees. They came out against corporal punishment back in 1975 as being unnecessary to the development of moral and competent adults (<http://www.apa.org/about/policy/corporal-punishment.aspx>) and more and more research has been done that shows that not only is spanking as punishment not necessary, it's actually counterproductive - <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2012/04/spanking.aspx>

But is the question of whether or not to physically punish children a Humanist issue? Of course it is. The methods humanist parents use to raise ethical, responsible adults must reflect our values. Physically battering a child is morally indefensible given that it serves no good purpose and is actually counterproductive. We have other more humane methods we can use to help our children learn self-discipline and we should be using them.

*Thank you!* **Jennifer Hancock**



[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.

- ◆ ◆ [Humanist Group to Appeal South Carolina Court Decision on Religious Graduations](#) *May 19, 2015* – The American Humanist Association objects to a ruling that prayers at public school events are constitutional.
- ◆ ◆ [Texas School Board Must Stop Christian Prayers at Public Meetings, Demands Humanist Group](#) *May 18, 2015* – The American Humanist Association files a lawsuit against the Birdville Independent School District.
- ◆ ◆ [Texas School Board Must Stop Christian Prayers at Public Meetings, Demands Humanist Group](#) *May 4, 2015* – AHA calls for Court to declare 40-foot cross on public land an Establishment Clause violation.
- ◆ ◆ [U.S. Supreme Court Must Recognize Marriage Rights of Same-Sex Couples, Says Humanist Group](#)



**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, needed, and appreciated!



This Woman's Point of View By *Toni Van Pelt*

## An enforcement tool, *Fifty Shades of Grey*

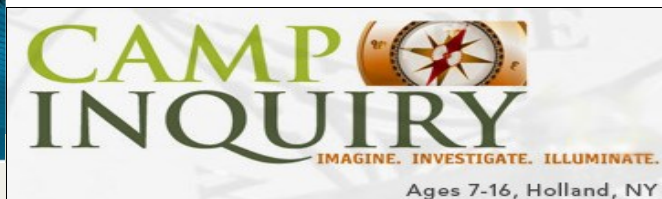
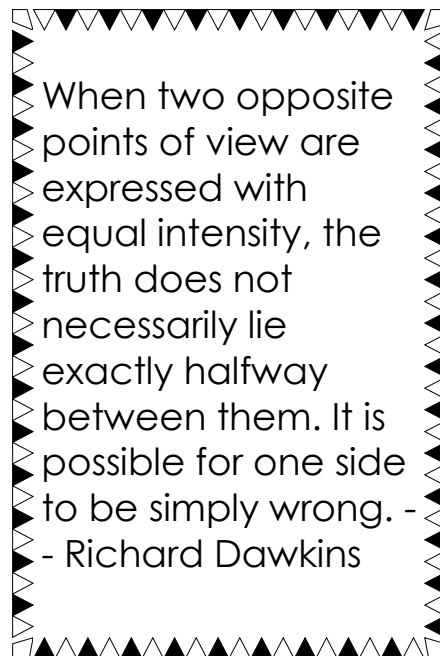
“An old story, repackaged”

*Fifty Shades of Grey*, the selling of male violence, domination, powerful and wealthy, is a very old story, repeated throughout the generations. In my day it was the *Story of O*. Yes, most women are turned on by many of these images of sexual bondage, degradation and humiliation.

I used to be myself. From the time I first experienced sexual fantasies it was usually an image of me kneeling at the altar in the catholic church with a priest coming up from behind me, inserting his penis and telling me to pray. It went on from there.

I imagine a number of catholic girls had the same kind of fantasies from a tender age and perhaps boys. How can it be any different in this society, that we are all turned on by abusive sexual images? As in all of planetary society, it is the way we are brought up and continue to bring up children. It is a big part of the grooming of girls, women and boys to accept violence and degradation as “normal” by the larger community. It is a huge part of the slavery industry.

[\(Read More\)](#)



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](mailto:freethinkersusf@gmail.com).



## Carl Sagan and the Dangers of Skepticism

Posted on May, 19, 2015 by [Daniel Loxton](#)

*This is an excerpt from [Junior Skeptic 50](#) (published in 2014 inside [Skeptic](#) magazine Vol. 19, No. 1), which is a ten-page biography of Sagan emphasizing his work in scientific skepticism. A different [short excerpt](#) of another section of this story appeared previously in [Skepticblog](#).*

*Junior Skeptic is written for (older) children, and does not include endnotes, though I often call out important sources in sidebars or the text of the story itself. However, I've included some relevant citations here for your interest:*

*Sagan believed skeptics "are performing a courageous and essential social service for the rest of us."<sup>2</sup> But he never lost his concern about how skeptics did that work. Skeptics sometimes cut corners in the quality of their research, he warned: "Sometimes it looks as if the skeptical conclusion came...before, not after, the evidence was examined."<sup>3</sup> He also cautioned skeptics strongly against an "us and them" attitude:*

You can get into a habit of thought in which you enjoy making fun of all those other people who don't see things as clearly as you do. This is a potential social danger of an organization like CSICOP. We have to guard carefully against it.

Sagan considered it not only unhelpful but also unfair when skeptics act "superior and contemptuous." He added, "I've even sometimes heard, to my retrospective dismay, that unpleasant tone in my own voice."<sup>10</sup> I've often wondered if Sagan had a specific occasion in mind as an example. Some skeptics and others have argued that Sagan was not careful enough in his research when he criticized the pseudoscientific theories of Immanuel Velikovsky.<sup>11</sup> Some also felt that Sagan was unkind in his 1974 debate with the elderly Velikovsky. Science fiction author Jerry Pournelle said "Sagan wisecracked through the whole 'debate'...using his verbal skills to ridicule the old man. It was as shameful a thing as I ever saw Carl do."<sup>12</sup> (See [Junior Skeptic 49](#) for the story of Velikovsky's life.)

Two decades after his debate with Velikovsky, near the end of his life, Sagan called again for kindness. Skepticism can be "heroic," he said. But we must always remember that:

*supporters of superstitions and pseudoscience are human beings with real beliefs, who, like the skeptics, are trying to figure out how the world works and what our role in it might be. ... If their culture has not given them all the tools they need to pursue this great quest, let us temper our criticism with kindness. None of us comes fully equipped.<sup>13</sup> For entire article, click the current [Skeptic](#).*

## The Brutalist Style in Academia

May 21, 2015, By David Koepsell



The term "Brutalism," that describes an architectural style, evolved out of the French term for "bare concrete," as many such buildings are undecorated, often oversized, and dominate the natural environment.

I think it reflects a trend in academia *in general*, one that has shifted the focus from the best, most humanistic qualities of the liberal arts towards something much more severe, less human, and that undermines the most noble purposes of universities. I was lucky to be in graduate school from 1992 to 1997, just before the bottom fell out of the market for graduates. There was still hope, and many in my graduating class found tenure track jobs. Some have risen to national prominence. Now, as opportunities diminish, university administrations appear to have helped promote a trend that mimics the cold, stark, inhuman texture of brutalist architecture.

I recently struck a chord with a tweet, receiving 38 retweets: "Philosophy as a discipline has been nearly destroyed by careerism, professionalization, and conformism... all driven by fear," I think that the brutalist trend is what is at work in my field.

Finally, in order to ascend in the profession, conformity is fostered. As in other fields, too much "rocking of the boat" will hold you back. You cannot cross the wrong people, and you must bow to the right gatekeepers. Don't attempt something too new, too radical, too risky. Stay within the lines, make only incremental arguments, avoid controversy.

Full article here [CFI Free Thinking](#).



### Tampa Bay Computer Society & Doc's Café

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>  
Dave 'Doc' Dockery, President. Be sure to check out [Doc's Café](#) to discuss serious issues.  
Find us at: [www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org) *We repair our member's computers for Free!*





## CENTER FOR INQUIRY

Tampa Bay

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



Rick O'Keefe

Friends, atheism is the door, humanism is the mansion. Giving up on failed faith isn't the end of the journey. It's the beginning for "inquiring minds." Skepticism is an alternative. Without developing an understanding of each, one can remain in a fog of confusion. To become a humanist and/or a skeptic takes learning and discipline, sometimes called "critical thinking." Here are some starting points.

A short video, well worth watching and sharing:  
[It's Time for Science & Reason!](#)

Our latest (short) ad campaign videos:  
[Living Without Religion](#) and [African Americans for Humanism](#).

Visit our famed affiliate, [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. Programs encourage the use of critical thinking skills while discussing current events of importance to thoughtful people. We encourage those who wish to help further the cause of skepticism to join TBS! Note that Friends of the Center may receive their first year's TBS membership free.

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

**JOIN NOW**

**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.

## A Leading Resource for Journalists, Producers, and the Media:

The Center for Inquiry tackles head-on many of today's burning issues from a refreshing and often provocative perspective, one based on science and reason, and guided by the values of secular humanism. CFI engages in research and advocacy in two broad areas.

View our experts and scholars in:

- ⇒ ⇒ [Secularism, Religion, Ethics, and Society](#)
- ⇒ ⇒ [Paranormal and Fringe-Science Claims](#)

## CFI's Position Papers

As an active agent for social and cultural change in U.S. and international policy, in the courts, and at the grassroots, the Center for Inquiry—in its roles as a think tank, United Nations NGO, and government affairs office—frequently releases carefully researched position papers of academic quality. Past position papers have focused on issues such as stem cell research, genetic engineering, global climate change, and Islam and human rights.

[View a full archive of CFI's position papers.](#)



[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.

The world would be astonished if it knew how great a proportion of its brightest ornaments, of those most distinguished even in popular estimation for wisdom and virtue, are complete skeptics in religion.

-- John Stuart Mill

# Free Student Membership—CFI On Campus



Title: (circle one) Ms. Mrs. Mr. Dr. Prof.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country:--- \_\_\_\_\_

*(Only fill out the next address section if you live somewhere else when not in school)*

Permanent Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country:--- \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Only fill out the following item if you are a member of a CFI On Campus affiliate group)*

Name of CFI On Campus Affiliate Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need your membership card to be sent in a discreet, plain envelope? (circle one) Yes No

----- and mail to:

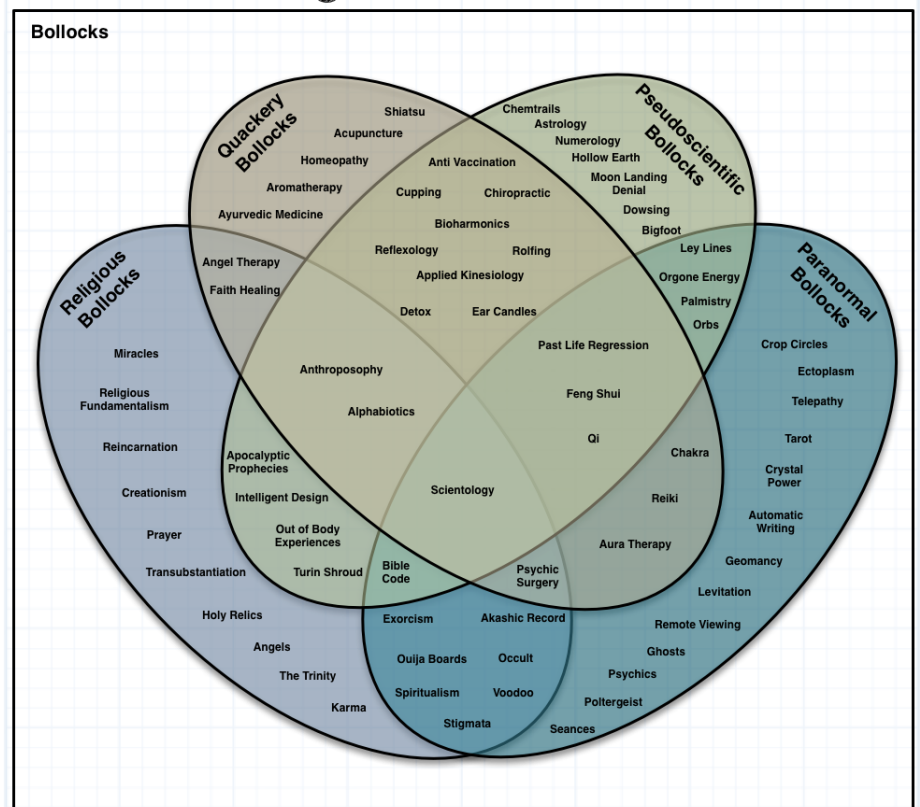
CFI On Campus, PO Box 741, Amherst, NY 14226-0741 *OR* click here for [online sign-up](#)

## The Nature of Naturopathy

April 15, 2015 *This article was originally posted on [illinissa.com](#)*

When this particular meme was posted, the comments section was filled with confusion and outrage over the inclusion of chiropractic therapy. Many people said the practice saved them from having to undergo surgery or that it relieved chronic aches and pains which had plagued them for years. How could this popular, respected science page condemn a legitimate field of medicine that had helped so many? As my father is a chiropractor and has run his own small practice for years, my opinion of IFLS soured slightly whenever they posted something that painted chiropractics in a negative light. Yet, I am committed to following the evidence wherever it leads, and the evidence has led me to some inconvenient conclusions about the realities of chiropractic. (Read the rest at [CFI On Campus](#).)

## The Venn Diagram of Irrational Nonsense



Religious Bollocks ∩ Quackery Bollocks ∩ Pseudoscientific Bollocks ∩ Paranormal Bollocks = Scientology





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

## Why Atheist groups deserve equal protection under the first amendment as religious groups.

*An opinion piece by Judy Adkins and Jim Peterson*

### Is Atheism a Religion?

Atheists of Florida, Inc. (d/b/a Florida Atheists) does not represent itself as a church, nor does it consider itself a religion. However, the U.S. Supreme Court and several other federal courts have recognized atheism as equivalent to a “religion” for purposes of the First Amendment. *McCreary County, Ky. v. American Civil Liberties Union of Ky.*, 545 U.S. 844, 125 S.Ct. 2722, 162 L.Ed.2d 729 (2005). In *Reed v. Great Lakes Cos.*, 330 F.3d 931, 934 (7th Cir.2003), it was said that “if we think of religion as taking a position on divinity, then atheism is indeed a form of religion.” In *Kaufman v. McCaughtry*, 419 F.3d 678, 682 (7th Cir. 2005), the court stated that “Atheism is, among other things, a school of thought that takes a position on religion, the existence and importance of a supreme being, and a code of ethics. As such, we are satisfied that it qualifies as Kaufman’s religion for purposes of the First Amendment”.

### Do Atheists have a code of ethics?

There is no single code of ethics that all atheists have adopted. However, many of us find the origin of human morality in the hypothesis Frank Zindler stated in his essay “Ethics without Gods”

*“As human beings, we are social animals. Our sociality is the result of evolution, not choice. Natural selection has equipped us with nervous systems which are peculiarly sensitive to the emotional status of our fellows.”*

Humans have built societies on the recognition of our interdependence, and historical evolution has provided us with the

various codifications we call ethics. Most atheist organizations have built substantial intellectual structures, and find validation, on the basis of ethical arguments.

More directly, as a 501c3 and a non-profit corporation in the state of Florida, Atheists of Florida Inc. maintain bylaws that were established when we incorporated. These original bylaws included our prospective purposes, which contained the following objectives among others:

*“Cooperation and equality—not conflict—among all peoples must be encouraged and promoted”*

*“To perceive the believers of any faith, as the product of unfounded dogmas toward whom sympathy and understanding must be extended.”*

Membership in the organization is “open to all persons and organizations adherent to the purposes” of the bylaws. While we have modified the language of these purposes over the years, the influence of the founders continues, especially the idea of treating people with respect and equality. We continue to emphasize positive moral behavior in our interactions with others. As such, Atheists of Florida, Inc. does hold to the ethical standards exemplified in its bylaws. As well, under federal law, we therefore should be given equal protection under the first amendment as traditional religious groups

So what does this mean in relation to the First Amendment and other “religions”? To me, it means that government should stay out of our affairs, just like it traditionally has done with churches and religions since the founding of our country. It means we have the same right to autonomy – to be free from illicit government interference – that churches already have.

Please read the rest of this essay here: [Atheists of Florida, Inc.](http://Atheists of Florida, Inc.)

ROK

Days of Special Interest  
June is National Aquarium Month

June 3 Repeat Day

June 8 Best Friends Day

June 19 Juneteenth Emancipation

June 21 World Humanist Day

June 26 Forgiveness Day



### TBCoR Leadership Team 2015

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

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

### Be Included!

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

### Tampa Bay CoR

9654 W. Linebaugh Ave.  
PMB #110  
Tampa, FL 33626



## Tampa Bay Coalition – June, 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.**

Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>



Summer Hiatus	E. TAMPA– Humanities Inst. at USF	See <a href="#">Web site</a> for full listing of many great events and calendar.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday eve. & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	TEMPLE TERRACE– UU Tampa Humanists	Sign up here: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a> Topics: <a href="http://uutampa.org/shaag-discussion-topics/">http://uutampa.org/shaag-discussion-topics/</a>	
TBA	NW HILLSBOROUGH/ Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. <a href="#">RSVP</a> here: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP</a>	
06-06 & 21, See Meetup	BRADENTON/SARASOTA– Humanist Families	Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
06-06, Saturday 2:00 PM	CLEARWATER– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Lecture, discussion, supper. Topic & RSVP: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/">http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/</a>	
06-07, 13, & 21 See Meetup	BRANDON– Atheists of Brandon	Atheists in the Pub, Bookclub .... Details & <a href="#">RSVP</a> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/</a>	
06-12, Friday 7:00 PM	E.TAMPA– M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club at MOSI	Web site: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/">http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/</a> for details & other events.	
06-20, Saturday, 11:00 AM Special program	CENTRAL TAMPA– Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/">http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/</a>	
06-21, Sunday, 2 PM at Library, 5 PM at restaurant - Clearwater	Humanist Society World Humanist Day Followed by the Moveable Feast	Find this month's venues, see page 1 and page 4 <a href="http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/">http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/</a>	
06-21, Sunday, 2 PM Usually 3rd Sunday monthly	BRANDON– CFI Skeptics & Humanists	Lunch & discussion. Click to <a href="#">RSVP</a> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
06-21, Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Humanists	Details: <a href="http://www.uuc.org/">http://www.uuc.org/</a>	
06-28 Sunday, 2:00 PM & 08-22 Triannual Lecture	Clearwater Main Library Tampa Bay Skeptics	Tony Ortega presentation on Scientology. Click to <a href="#">RSVP</a> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/">http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/</a>	
06-25, Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	<b>RSVP is required</b> if you are coming. Seating is limited to 25! Click here <i>before</i> midnight, Sunday the 24 <sup>th</sup> . For CFI paid members. <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
06-26, Friday, 8:00 PM 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday gen'l. mtg. Plus other events!	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, location, & and details: <a href="http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php">http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php</a>	
06-27, Saturday, 10:30 AM; <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	paid-up <i>CFI members</i> . <b>RSVP is required</b> . <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
06-14, Sunday, 11:30 AM Pot luck and discussion	SOUTH TAMPA– <a href="#">Atheists of Florida</a> , Inc.	More: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/</a>	