

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought See Pg 6 News

Vol. 4 No. 3 March, 2015 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

What's Inside?

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

* Member organizations

Directory

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar
[Rick O'Keefe](#)

Web site
Jim Peterson

Newsletter
[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

THE NECESSITY OF SECULARISM: WHY GOD CAN'T TELL US WHAT TO DO



Ron Lindsay, President and CEO of the Center for Inquiry

Discusses His Newest Book
Thursday, March 5, 2015
6:30 pm

Presented by Center for Inquiry -Tampa Bay

Upper Tampa Bay Regional Library, Room 204-B
11211 Countryway Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33626

Space is limited, so RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/events/220587470/>

In his new book, CFI president Ron Lindsay argues that in a religiously pluralistic society, a robust, thoroughgoing secularism is the only reliable means of preserving public order and freedom for all. Secularism is not just another term for the separation of church and state. Secularism implies not only a secular state but a secular society, that is, one in which religion remains in the private domain. In particular, religious precepts should have no place in public policy debates. Secularism is not only desir-

able; it is required if we are to have a democracy that respects the rights of all.

Ronald A. Lindsay, J.D., Ph.D. is president & CEO of the Center for Inquiry. He is by training and experience both a lawyer and a philosopher. An honors graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, he practiced for twenty-six years with the national law firm of Seyfarth Shaw LLP prior to joining the Center for Inquiry, where he has been president and CEO since June 2008. Ron Lindsay received his Ph.D. from Georgetown University, specializing in bioethics. He has had articles published in peer-reviewed journals such as [The Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics](#), the [Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal](#), and [The American Journal of Bioethics](#). His first book, *Future Bioethics: Overcoming Taboos, Myths, and Dogmas*, was published by Prometheus Books in June 2008. He is also the author of the entry on "Euthanasia" for the prestigious *International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (2013). In discussing issues of concern to the secular community, he has appeared on CNN, Fox News, HuffPost Live, and numerous local television and radio stations, and he has provided commentary to the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and many other newspapers and magazines.

Ω



Mandisa L. Thomas, President above, and Rich Peacock, leaders of Black Nonbelievers will be in Tampa on March 21st. They will discuss the history, accomplishments, and aims of the BN movement. See more on Page 5.





Tampa Bay Coalition – March, 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.

See the Web site for several events monthly. 4+ Friday gen'l. mtg..

03– Four Events in March
See [Spring calendar](#)

03-05, Thursday, 7 PM

03-05, Thursday, 6 PM
ACLU Banquet

03-05, Thursday, 6 PM
ACLU Banquet

03-05, Saturday 6:30 PM
Several events monthly.

03-07, Saturday 2 PM

03-08, Sunday, 7 PM

03-08, Sunday, 1:30 PM
POT LUCK LUNCH

03-14, Saturday, 4 PM
See Web site for more events

03-15, Sunday, 2 PM
Usually 3rd Sunday of each month

03-15, Sunday, 10:30 AM
Dinosaur World

03-15, Saturday 12:30

03-16, Monday, 7 PM

03-18, Wednesday, 6:00 PM
–See the Meetup for updates

03-21, Saturday, 11 AM

03-28, Saturday, 10:30 AM
Must have read the book to attend

03-31, Tuesday, 6 PM

04-26, Saturday 11 AM

ST. PETERSBURG -
Astronomy Club

TAMPA
Humanities Institute at USF

PINELLAS COUNTY - Humanist Society
Moveable Feast Members welcome.

ST. PETERSBURG– **ACLU GALA**
Atheists of Florida, Inc.

TAMPA–
Tampa Humanist Association

N TAMPA
Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay

CLEARWATER–
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

BRANDON–
Atheists of Brandon

TAMPA- See page 9 for details
Atheists of Florida, Inc.

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

BRANDON–CFI Skeptics &
Humanists

BRADENTON- SARASOTA
Humanist Families of Tampa Bay

CLEARWATER–
UU Humanists,

NW HILLSBOROUGH /
CARROLLWOOD–
Tampa Bay Thinkers

Central Pinellas Skeptics in the Pub
at the Creole Café,

TAMPA
Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay

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

N. PINELLAS AREA-
CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper

CLEARWATER–
Tampa Bay Skeptics

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

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

This month's selection: see Page 4
Please RSVP to the address given on pg. 4

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

Details: Page 5, or see our Meetup
<http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association>

Details & RSVP: MEET RON LINDSAY
<http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>

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

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

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

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

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

Family outings and other activities See page 10
www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa
and <http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/>

Regular Sunday meeting: <http://www.uuc.org/>
See page 7 for more info on the UU Humanists event.

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

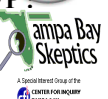
Skeptical activities and critical thinking. Click **RSVP**:
<http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/>

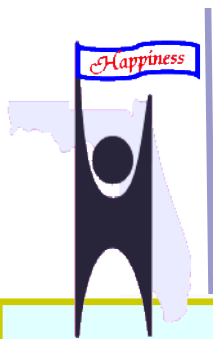
Details & RSVP: African American Humanism
<http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>

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

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

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





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. 3 March, 2015

Our Program committee has lined up some exciting new offerings for this season. Help us make it possible.

~ *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!

A Humanistic Libertarianism ?

Meet Lucas Overby



Lucas Overby is a lifelong resident of Pinellas County. He attended Lakewood High School's Center for Advanced Technologies, becoming a member of the National Honors Society and graduating Cum Laude in 2004. While in high school he began working as a commercial diver, later attending Florida Atlantic University's Ocean Engineering Program. He currently works as a commercial Diving Supervisor. Drawn to national action at a local level, Lucas began working in activism in 2003. He has worked with GSA, GLAAD, SOAR, NORML, PUFMM, and the Libertarian Party.

Driven by these interests and the knowledge he's gained, Lucas filed for candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2013 which while unsuccessful, did not diminish his enthusiasm. Read more here: <http://lucasoverby.com/>

Libertarianism is a strain of political thought that has had an enduring attraction for many people not happy with the ossified arrangements of the two party system. However, it deserves to be examined and questioned as any other set of political propositions. Nothing human is perfect, but everything human needs to be understood. Join us to learn more, and to be part of the ongoing political dialog that attempts to answer the question, "How shall we live?" JP



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 Mar 7th
at
The Clearwater
Countryside
Library 2741
State Rd. 580
Clearwater, FL
33761

Many members
go to dinner
afterwards at the
Dennys on US-19.
*Alternative venue
ideas welcome!*

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

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 March 21st

Mandisa L. Thomas, founder and president of Black Nonbelievers, Inc., all the way from Atlanta, GA. We will also feature Rich Peacock, organizer of [Black Nonbelievers of Metro Orlando](#) Meetup.

Their overall goal is to create support and friendship among black nonbelievers of diverse backgrounds. They have been meeting regularly and successfully in Orlando for over three years now providing black nonbelievers and allies with a venue for rational discussions, fun, and laid-back, secular fellowship.

Learn More - come to the discussion...



Mandisa L. Thomas



At Black Nonbelievers, we strive to achieve our mission at any given opportunity. In the process of us doing so, your support will be needed and is greatly appreciated.

"While the efforts to increase diversity within the secular community show improvement, there's still more action that needs to be taken in order to yield true progress. These conversations must not end at meetings and conferences; they must continue frequently, and then be followed by practical steps. Only then will it prove we matter." **Mandisa L. Thomas, President of Black Nonbelievers**

See the full HuffPost article by Roy Speckhardt on Humanism and racism from which this quote was extracted here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/roy-speckhardt/when-challenging-racism-h_b_6548574.html



Now is the time for progress to be made; for people to move forward, to drop old habits and routines and address the challenges of the future. No one can resist the tides of history, nor should anyone fail to welcome the opportunities presented by a new day. The freethought movement is an instrument of liberation from old outmoded thinking, and a door that opens into a new world in which people everywhere can move with renewed vigor into the realization of their potential. Let's put Tampa on the map of change. See <https://blacknonbelievers.wordpress.com/> Also, see: <http://www.blackatheistsofamerica.com/>

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



Dr. Neil Degrasse Tyson

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

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

Humanist Quotes

“Human decency is not derived from religion. It precedes it.”

Christopher Hitchens

[Read more](#)



There is an alternative. In fact, there are many!

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

Neither Utopia Nor Extinction

Some renewable energy advocates (particularly in the US) soft-pedal the “use less” message because we still inhabit an economy in which jobs and profits depend on stoking consumption, not cutting it. “Less” also implies “fewer”: if the amount of energy available contracts but human population continues growing, that will translate to an even sharper *per capita* hit. This suggests we need to start reducing population, and doing so quickly—but economists hate population decline because it compromises GDP and results in smaller generational cohorts of young workers supporting larger cohorts of retirees. Here is yet another message that just doesn’t sell. A contraction of energy, population, and the economy has only two things going for it: necessity and inevitability.

From a political standpoint, some solar and wind advocates apparently believe it makes good strategic sense to claim that a renewable future will deliver comfort, convenience, jobs, and growth—an extension of the oil-fueled 20th century, but now energized by wind and solar electrons. Regardless of whether it’s true, it is a message that appeals to a broad swath of the public. Yet most serious renewable energy scientists and analysts acknowledge that the energy transition will require changes throughout society. This latter attitude is especially prevalent in Europe, which now has practical experience integrating larger percentages of solar and wind power into electricity markets. Here in the US, though, it is common to find passionate but poorly informed climate activists who loudly proclaim that the transition can be easily and fully accomplished at no net cost. Again, this may be an effective message for rallying troops, but it ends up denying oxygen to energy conservation efforts, which are just as important.

The prospects for humanity, and the fates of many other species, hang on our actions.
Richard Heinberg Fellow, PCI

All around the world, thousands of initiatives are demonstrating that we can create a better future: resilient communities, healthier ecosystems, equitable economies. Now we need to connect the dots, get together, translate understanding into action, and build a global to local movement!

Join us at the Economics of Happiness conference to discuss, discover and devise better systems for now and the future. Get involved in a new project. Find out how to make your work more effective. Link up with local initiatives. Debate the details. Explore new policies. Deconstruct the old. See the connections. Articulate solutions. Get engaged in creating new economy – one that works for people and the planet!

The program will include plenaries, panels, interactive workshops and other participatory sessions. The wide range of inter-connected topics will include: local food, public policy, democracy, local business, the commons, cooperatives, local finance, spirituality, connecting to nature, economic indicators, health, education, bridging the North-South divide, the new economy movement, climate justice, cultural diversity, biodiversity, environmental justice, income inequality, and the impact of the economy on our psychological well-being.

Learn more at: <http://www.localfutures.org/event/the-economics-of-happiness-conference-portland/>



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)

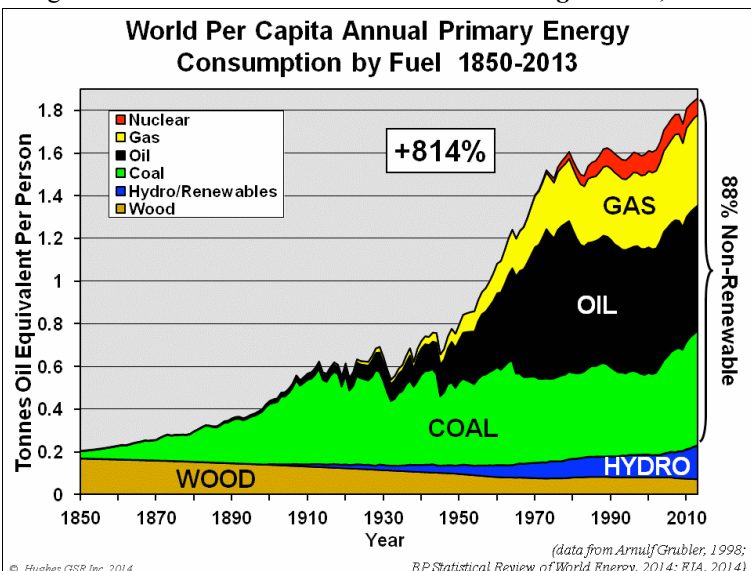
Thus substantive and exciting new activities are offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

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



Clearwater, Florida

Join us **March 15th, 12:30**, in the Octago at the Unitarian-Universalist of Clearwater campus, 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater, Florida. Our speaker will be **Ned Bellamy**, who will speak on the topic of "**Reason and Meaning, two sources of wisdom.**" Ned received graduate degrees in law and business from New York University. He spent a career as senior manager, management consultant in the building business. Ned is an agnostic, humanist, mediator, author, and co-parent of 7. He has been a volunteer with the rural poor, homeless, and imprisoned.



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



Recently, we got big wins from the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in two of our key cases – one challenging Florida's ban on marriages for same-sex couples, and the other challenging Florida's law that people on government assistance must submit to suspicionless urinalysis.

In our marriage case, the US supreme court has given us a final word that should allow loving same-sex couples to start getting married and having their marriages recognized in Florida as soon as Tuesday, January 6!

In the drug testing case, the Court ruled that forcing people who apply for temporary state aid to submit to an invasive and humiliating search of their bodily fluids is [an unconstitutional government search.](#)

This is the fourth time a court has rejected Gov. Scott's arguments that the government can subject people to tandom searches of their bodily fluids based on nothing more than stereotypes about poor people, but Gov. Scott has stated before that he is willing to defend this plan all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. We need a strong network of supporters to help us protect these important wins from being overturned in Florida.

[Help us finish this fight and the many others that lie ahead, by pledging to stand for freedom in Florida.](#)

Thank you for standing with us.

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF JOIN THE ACLU



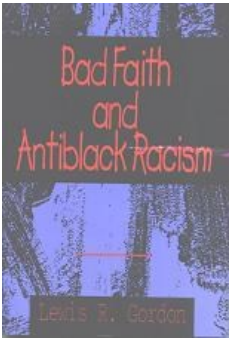
The Humanities Institute of USF

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

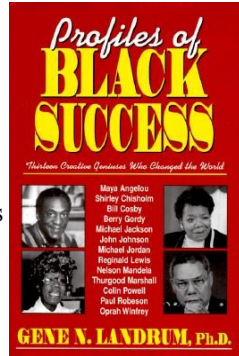


[Bad Faith and Antiracism](#)

"... a major contribution to Sartre studies, to the analysis of antiracism, to the very meaning of color itself in human terms." ...

[Profiles of Black Success : Thirteen Creative Geniuses Who Changed the World](#)

Gene Landrum has expanded his popular "profiles" series to feature 13 special individuals whose extraordinary achievements result from an insatiable internal drive and a demand for excellence despite few inherited advantages.

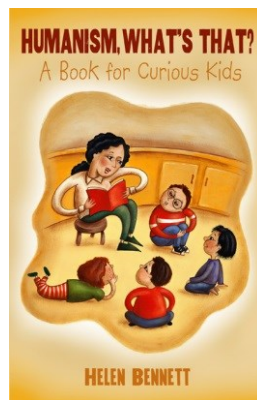


[Seasonings](#) by CFI & Humanist Society member and journalist poet, **Lula J. Dovi** has completed an illustrated chapbook of poetry reflecting on her 92 years of adventures. It is [available here](#).

[Humanism, What's That? : A Book for Curious Kids](#)

By Helen Bennett

This small volume holds out the hope and openness of Humanism in a form that can help young people confront Fundamentalist approaches to religion with confidence.



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 Hawking
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 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	Stenes

Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter for our quarterly potluck sharing on **Sunday, March 8th** 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:

Presidents Volunteer of the Year recognition went 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 unexamined traditional beliefs. JP

Roy Speckhardt, Exec. Dir. Of AHA, writes,
Darwin Day this year was historic.

“The Darwin Day Resolution—expressing support for February 12 as a celebration of science and humanity—was introduced not just in the House by Rep. Jim Himes, but in the Senate by Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

“This resolution does more than simply recognize Darwin Day—it’s a substantive resolution that bolsters the teaching of evolution in public schools and stands strong against climate change deniers.

“It’s shocking to see the lack of support science experiences by members of Congress—over 160 Representatives and Senators deny or question the threat of climate change, one of which is the head of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. And according to a recent *Slate* article, hundreds of schools in the United States are teaching creationism, intelligent design, or other “alternatives” to evolution—using your taxpayer dollars!”

NY Times: [The Divide between “Pushy” Atheists and Secular Humanists](#)

“Much like the current appeal of the libertarian movement and *Reason* magazine, the sharp iconoclasm of Myers and others appeals to young people seeking something novel and anti-establishment, an outlook easily captured in a T-shirt and expressed as an identity by way of a label such as atheist. But as college students move into their late twenties and thirties, marry and start families, something more than entertaining, ideologically reinforcing attacks on religion are needed to sustain adult-level engagement.

“[Studies show that rising Millennials](#) are skeptical or at least ambivalent about religion, but at the same time looking for a positive and inclusive message about values, tolerance, and collective action to solve problems. Among this generation, there is a deep commitment to tolerance, diversity, and public service. “A positive vision of secular humanism can capture and channel this ethos across the life course of a diverse segment of individuals, from college to old age. In contrast, the rhetoric offered by confrontationalists such as Myers is in many ways counter to this emerging preference among young people and to the need for a life-long philosophy, preaching instead intolerance while encouraging individualism and association among only like-minded others.”



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>

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Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008.

Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, every 3rd Monday monthly at 7 PM .

March 16: Is the USA “The Land of the Free”?

The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



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

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

On the web at: www.maaf.info

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

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

There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly Humanist Way of life. Jennifer is

author of several books including: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine*.



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.

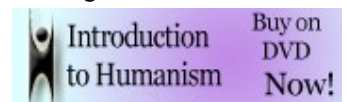
Throughout the year we host parties like Darwin Day in February, World Humanist Day in June, Freethought Day at Disney in October and Carl Sagan Day in November.

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>.



What does it mean to be responsible?

And why should we even bother?

It seems like an exercise in cognitive dissonance. We want to be free, and yet, we Humanists think the way to be free is to be responsible.

The key to understanding why this makes sense and is not dissonant is to understand what responsibility is. The root word of responsibility is respond. It's how we choose to respond to what is happening to us.

We may not be able to control everything that happens to us, but we can, to a certain extent and if we practice it enough, choose our response. And to the extent we can choose, we humanists think we have a moral obligation to choose our response wisely. This is why the American Humanist Association statement about Humanism says we have the ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.

Because we have the ability, we have a responsibility. And yes, that to exercise that responsibility sometimes takes a great deal of effort and will power. The good news is that as you practice being responsible and actively and intentionally choosing your responses, you get better at it.

The other benefit is that by choosing your responses, you can behave more strategically - and this in turn increases the chances that you will succeed in whatever it is you are trying to accomplish or hope you will accomplish.

Yes, being responsible is difficult. It means we can't be the big fat babysaurus that we sometimes feel we are justified in being.

Being responsible means being an adult and understanding that regardless of how self righteous you may feel, moderating your response through active choice will probably lead to better outcomes for you and everyone else involved. Choosing your response means you are in control - to a certain extent. And that control, feels a whole lot like freedom.

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 Files for Summary Judgment in Public School Prayer Case](#) February 4, 2015 – The Appignani Humanist Legal Center continues its lawsuit challenging prayer in a South Carolina school.
- ♦ [Public School Promptly Addresses Establishment Clause Violation in Morning Announcements](#) February 9, 2015 – The Appignani Humanist Legal Center defends the rights of two atheist high schoolers.


Despite what many people and governments would have us believe, the right to freedom of expression has a solid international basis—one they continually ignore. Read about international agreements protecting free expression and the many laws and cases around the world that clearly run counter to those agreements. **Read more »**



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!



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



CAMP INQUIRY
IMAGINE. INVESTIGATE. ILLUMINATE.
Ages 7-16, Holland, NY

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](#)

Information about Camp Inquiry 2015 will be announced soon! 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 inquiry on campus. We hope to contribute interdisciplinary dialog to the USF community, a 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.

Physicists and Philosophers: An internet video discussion

Massimo Pigliucci, PhDs (Biology, Philosophy), CUNY, and Dan Kaufman, PhD, MSU (Philosophy)

<https://scientiasalon.wordpress.com/2015/02/10/physicists-and-philosophers/>

Review by Wesley M. Johnson, PhD (Biomedical Engineering), (Graduate of Humanist Institute)

The discussion centered on recent comments by Physicists Laurence Krauss and Neil deGrasse Tyson that the work of Philosophers was useless to physicists. The comments related specifically to the Philosophy of Science. Most of the talking was done by Massimo as he claims membership in both science and philosophy and holds PhDs in both fields. Richard Feynman and Sir Francis Crick had also made similar negative comments about philosophy.

The overall tone was defensive in an “us versus them” motif (Philosophers vs. Physicists). History of philosophy was mentioned going back some thousand years or more when natural philosophy meant what we now call science. Two important issues were raised. First; why physicists and a few biologists were the ones dismissing philosophy. The question was not really answered because Dan and Massimo kept mentioning all the valuable things philosophy has contributed. Things like democracy, animal welfare and civil rights, which, while true have nothing to do with the philosophy of science. The pair suggested the rejection might be a reaction to post modernism. But, that did not explain how such a reaction was limited to physicists. Second issue was their philosophy of science definition as: “... not in the business of helping physicists.” In fact they said science does not need philosophy. That seemed strange to me and perhaps the ultimate reason behind physicists’ rejection of Philosophy of Science. Massimo should have expected such a rejection since he is employed by a university which grants advanced degrees in physics. He should have known the physics curriculum did not include advanced philosophy. He should also have known that physicists are busy full time investigating the natural world and have no time to study philosophy.

The hour long discussion could have been constructive by teaching the ignorant physicists at least one philosophy lesson. The two philosophers missed an opportunity. The hour long discussion could have been constructive by teaching intelligent people how philosophy of science is important to physics. They missed a great opportunity.

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](#)



Tampa Bay Computer Society

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

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

CFI’s African American Outreach **African Americans for Humanism** (AAH)

The need for critical thinking skills and a humanistic outlook in our world is great. This is no less true in the black community than in others. Many African Americans have been engulfed by religious irrationality, conned by self-serving “faith healers”, and swayed by dogmatic revisionist historians. Many others, however, have escaped the oppression of such delusions, and live happy and upstanding lives free of superstition. African Americans for Humanism (AAH) exists to bring these secular humanists together, to provide a forum for communication, and to facilitate coordinated action. In an irrational world, those who stand for reason must stand together.

For further information, visit [African Americans for Humanism](#).

Director: **Debbie Goddard**
P.O. Box 741
Amherst, NY 14226
(716) 636-4869 ext. 421
aah@centerforinquiry.net

The Black Humanist Experience: An Alternative to Religion by Norman R. Allen, ed.

The first book dedicated entirely to humanists of African descent, *The Black Humanist Experience* gives African American humanists the opportunity to discuss their reasons for leaving the religious fold and embracing a humanist life stance. As a minority within a minority, African American humanists may often feel isolated and misunderstood. These thoughtful essays help to draw attention to the vitality of the humanist movement within the black community and they put many myths about humanists to rest.





Rick O'Keefe

Roy Speckhardt, Exec. Dir of AHA, spoke with **Mandisa L. Thomas**, president of [Black Nonbelievers, Inc.](#), and she said, "While the efforts to increase diversity within the secular community show improvement, there's still more action that needs to be taken in order to yield true progress. These conversations must not end at meetings and conferences; they must continue frequently, and then be followed by practical steps. Only then will it prove we matter." And with the idea of doing more, Mandisa said that they are seeking collaborators for a new project they are launching called New Turn: Secular Solutions for Recidivism. It's dedicated to giving ex-convicts and at-risk youths professional and life skills from a secular approach. It's meaningful projects like this that will do good and help establish atheist credibility. For the entire article, visit: <http://huff.to/1763Mix>

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](#)

Don't miss the March 21 (Saturday) visit from Mandisa L. Thomas, founder and president of Black Nonbelievers, Inc., all the way from Atlanta, GA. <http://www.blacknonbelievers.org>.

We will also feature Richard Peacock, organizer of [Black Nonbelievers of Metro Orlando](#) Meetup

What have black freethinkers experienced? Can they successfully organize? Must they remain separate? Have white freethinkers welcomed them?

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.



[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.

"They knew no better, but I do not propose to follow the example of a barbarian because he was honestly a barbarian."

-- Robert Green Ingersoll, *The Limitations of Toleration*



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

**We are not a Christian nation:
Ronald Reagan, John F. Kennedy and the
eternal lie of the “city upon a hill”**

John Winthrop's "city upon a hill" dominates presidential rhetoric and our self-understanding. Here's the problem
Excerpted from One Nation Under Gods: A New American History"

When Barack Obama delivered his first inaugural address six years ago last week, on January 20, 2009, it was the first time a newly elected president used the occasion to give voice to the diversity of religious life among its people. “We are a nation of Christians and Muslims,” Obama said, “Jews and Hindus, and nonbelievers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth.”

Such a high-profile expression of the varieties of American religious experience was unprecedented, even if the reality it described predates the Republic itself. A spectrum of beliefs informed the nation’s history well before its first president, in his 1789 inaugural address, spoke of “that Almighty Being who rules over the universe.” Yet Obama’s choice of words served as a reminder that only recently did the range of opinions about the nature of that Being, including its existence, begin to receive their due in the ongoing national conversation about the appropriate place of religion in American life.

Perhaps most noteworthy about the president’s

acknowledgment that the United States is a country of many faiths was that it seemed noteworthy at all. His simple declaration of a catalogue of beliefs surprised many because there persists, among believers and nonbelievers alike, an assumption that the United States is, for better or worse, a Christian nation.

Nothing has done more to keep this notion alive than the stubborn persistence of words spoken more than a century before this land was a nation at all: John Winthrop’s designation of the community he would establish in America as a “city upon a hill.” Some historians have doubted these words were ever spoken, but tradition maintains that in 1630, while the Puritan settlers of Massachusetts Bay were still aboard the *Arabella*, the governor of the colony delivered a sermon comparing their humble settlement to a lofty city described in a parable of Jesus.

For at least the past fifty years, that single unifying metaphor has dominated presidential rhetoric about the nation’s self-understanding, causing an image borrowed from the Gospels to become a tenet of faith in America’s civil religion. While not a direct refutation, Obama’s statement of religious diversity presented a challenge to reconsider the meaning, and even the relevance, of this image in the twenty-first century.

To read the rest, <http://www.salon.com/2015/02/14/>

Days of Special Interest

Read Across America Day: Many people in the United States, particularly students, parents and teachers, join forces on Read Across America Day, annually held on **March 2**. This nationwide observance coincides with the birthday of Dr Seuss, who is known for writing children’s books.

Mar 8, 2015 - Daylight Saving Time: When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 8, 2015, **2:00:00 AM** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, March 8, 2015, **3:00:00 AM** local daylight time instead. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Mar 8, 2015 than the day before. There will be [more light in the evening](#).



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

Be Included!

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