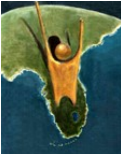




Vol. 5 No. 11, November 2016 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason Freethought News



What's Inside?

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Election day is just days away and the Freethought Equality Fund has **59 Endorsed candidates in 21 states and the District of Columbia who deserve your vote** (if you live in their district) **and support** (even if you don't live in their district). A complete list of our endorsed candidates can be found [here](#).

John de Lancie, (Q) who received the Humanist Arts Award at the 2016 American Humanist Association Conference, has released a series of **get-out-the-vote videos**. Please share these videos with friends and family members who may need a little extra push to ensure they vote on November 8.



John de Lancie

[Election 2016 - Don't Get Screwed](#)

[Election 2016 - I Believe in the Future](#)

[Election 2016 - Toss the Mutineers Out](#)

Sincerely,

Ron Millar



**Coming
February 5th,
Tom Flynn**

Tom Flynn is the Center for Inquiry's vice president for media and director of Inquiry Media Productions. He is also executive director of the Council for Secular Humanism and editor of its flagship magazine, *Free Inquiry*. He designed and directs the Council's museum at the Dresden, N.Y., birthplace of 19th century agnostic orator Robert Green Ingersoll. He has written or edited eight books, including *The New Encyclopedia of Unbelief* (Prometheus, 2007). Presented by Center for Inquiry—Tampa Bay & Tampa Bay Skeptics.

Winterfest Pot Luck

When: Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 6-8 PM.

Where: [UUC - Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater](#) - Social Hall

What to bring (by first letter of your last name):

A-F Main Course

G-L Dessert

M-S Salad

T-Z Veggies and starches

Bring enough to serve 10

Cost: \$5.00 per person to defray rental of social hall; soft drinks that will be provided: coffee, tea and soda pop. Beer and Wine = \$2 each.

Entertainment: The real, musically up-to-date, Bob Schur Combo + animated conversation!

RSVP ASAP (will or will not attend, please) to: Mark Brandt at mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu ,727 733-7855; or

Bill Norsworthy at bnorsworthy@verizon.net , 727 687-9867

or [HERE](http://bit.ly/2eQfSBR): <http://bit.ly/2eQfSBR> Winterfest 2016

**Coming: Skepticamp-2
in January See Page 7 for info.**

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar

[Rick O'Keefe](#)

Web site

Jim Peterson

Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects

Mark Brandt
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:

www.evolutetampa.com

See the full roster of the
Leadership board
on Page 5.

This publication online at:
www.suncoasthumanist.com



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast News

An Epicurean society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is worth living well.
Associate organization of the [Humanists of Florida](#), the [AHA](#), [COR](#), and [CSH](#) Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

Our
29th
Year

Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL

Escape from the most bizarre Election ...ever

At the instigation of Dave "Chuckles" Kovar, our November program will consist of the following pre-triumph, or pre-cataclysm exercise :

Humanists tend to think of themselves as intelligent, witty, robust, and well aware of current events. Let us prove them wrong! Join us for an audience participation joke & humor event. Bring out your jokes, topical or tropical, old or new, (please no long, elaborate monologues - short ones - OK). We will go around the room sharing jokes or puns, taking turns. (Usually for the worse).

Bonus points will be awarded for jokes involving the presidential election, humanism or religion, and gender stereotypes (half for monotypes).

Points will be subducted for jokes voted a "groaner" by a majority of the audience, or any joke that starts "a priest, a minister, and a rabbi walk into a bar..."

Score will be kept, but no prizes awarded. (Well,.. maybe a few.)

Should we run out of jokes (really?) a discussion on improbable current events and other debacles will ensue.

After our meeting, please consider walking across the parking lot and joining us for a late lunch at Marguerite's cafe, a chance to relax and converse with old friends and make new ones as well: www.marqueritescafe.com

REMEMBER:

Our December meeting will be Winterfest- Humanlight Potluck (see Page 1) Also, February will be our Darwin Day event with TBCOR. More to come...

Volume 24 No. 11 November, 2016

*Join or renew the
Humanist Society of the Suncoast*

Annual Dues.

- _ E-mail news -Free
- _ **Regular -\$25**
- _ Reg. Couple -\$30.
- _ **Supporter -\$35/40 (W/ pin above)**
- _ Life -\$200.
- _ Life Couple -\$250.
- _ Associate -\$10



Your membership helps keep Humanism alive and growing in the Tampa Bay area A small part of your dues allows us to participate fully as a member organization of the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason and enables us to support larger and more exciting programs.

If you have questions concerning your dues or status, contact our treasurer,
marios_psomas@hotmail.com

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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: * _____

E-mail: _____
(Privacy respected)

Send tax deductible (501c3) check made out to:
"Marios Psomas"
Memo line: "Humanist Society Dues"
Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
1013 Connecticut Rd
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

*= optional



Tampa Bay Harvest

Food: the first kindness and the measure of our Hospitality. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. Money is more effective than cans to get the most benefit to the greatest number of people. Thanks to **Glenn Paul**, chair, and Jordan Williams. Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance. **We need volunteers!** Write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.

Please join us at

**2:00 PM
November 5th**

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

Many of us go to dinner afterwards at: [Marguerites Cafe](#) directly across from the Library.

Kay and Glenn Paul are both spending some recuperation time after unfortunate medical misadventures. Give them a little call to help let them know that they are appreciated. Reach them at 727. 595-3347.



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

What is the Humanist Way?

1. To extend a human centered approach to the critical problems of life and society.

2. To encourage attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance and a loving generosity in human relationships, and in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others, and encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture and experience.

3. To develop and popularize the skills of creative and critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition and irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.

4. To exalt those artistic and imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure and enlightenment, and which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, and other expressions, we embrace the essence of what it means to be human.

5. To explore the grounds of ethics and morality within the unfolding history of our evolving culture. Such knowledge will enable us to become effective protagonists for the happiness of the individual person. JP

The Movable Feast:

the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner for November is at ... the

ACROPOLE

1170 Starkey Rd, Largo, FL 33771, Largo
(Southern Extension of Keene)

We're changing our approach. Now its just open. No RSVP required. Trundle on down for the fine food and fastidiously fabulous fellowship! See [Menu](#).

Sunday, November 20th by 5 O'clock
to meet with our friends.

As always, this is a self treated dinner.

Ask to be seated with "the humanists."

We need a coordinator for this!... Maybe you?

Laugh Lines *From the old West...* 11-16

An Italian banker came to America in 1873.

Not yet fluent in English, he had trouble finding a job in banking.

He decided to try his luck "out west".

Sadly, near Tucson, as he was alighting from the stagecoach at a transfer station, he caught his foot and fell to the ground, landing on his face.

At the station, he was bedded down to recover, with an old Indian to tend him.

Alas, upon recovery, he discovered that his face was so damaged that he knew he couldn't take work dealing with the public.

He took the station master's advice and tried on a mask the old man fashioned. That helped.

He convinced the Indian to accompany him on his journey. He bought two horses, and off they went. His horse, being white, he learned from his friend to say, "Hi ho Silver, away!"

Finally, they arrived in a small town wherein the banker had recently been killed in a robbery. What good fortune for the Italian. Although the townspeople were leery of his wearing a mask, they did appreciate his service to the community.

Yes, that's the origin of the Lone Arranger.

ROK

Humanist society

of the Suncoast

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

Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

Jay Alexander,

Steve Brown,

Lois Fries, Secretary

Dave Kovar, Vice

President

Jim Peterson, President

Frank Prahl,

Marios Psomas, treasurer

Jordan Williams.

Emeritus members: Terry

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Kligman, Dr. Jack Robinson,

Jerry Moore, Anita Garcia,

Mark Winterbottom, Sidney

Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn

Paul, Don Acenbrack Dec.,

Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie Jordan,

Brent Yaciv, Mike Hubbard,

Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler

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

**Jordan Williams, mail
Publisher**

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,
click:

**Cognitive Neurosciences
Inc.**

The Therapist Project,

Lynda Gurvitz,

(727) 725-8820

Patricia Walters,

(813) 452-6547



Tampa Humanist Association

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

November 19th, 11 AM

Discussion Leader: **Lucas Hopegood**

As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above and within the level of conscious recognition. Using the instruments of reason, and critical thinking, we strive to be at one in understanding both the world that made us, and the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully and critically dissects a new intersection of mind and matter. Be part of it. Subject: TBA

Learn more about the association at: <http://tampahumanist.com/>



The mission of the [Secular Coalition](#) is to increase the visibility of and respect for non-theistic view-points in the State, and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

Bill Norsworthy, is our Florida representative.

Please sign up [here](#).

Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, and appreciated!



See page 7 for more information on our Secular Coalition activities around the National day of Reason. SC wants *you* to represent the voice of thousands of the people of reason in the halls of power.

As our government undergoes its quadrennial crises of morphology, the secular coalition is needed to remind citizens and officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots requires your involvement.

A Humanist Discussion group in east Tampa !

UU Humanists of Tampa

Meetings temporarily suspended.

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/>

Humanist Quotes

Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn't go away.
 ~ Philip K. Dick

=====

It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers.
 ~ James Thurber

Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!



CFI-Tampa Bay is offering these elegant license plate surrounds. Legal, sturdy, fits all US plates - easy to install. Only \$10.

Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)



Tampa Bay CoR
 9654 W. Linebaugh Ave. PMB #110
 Tampa, FL 33626
 E-mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay, Tampa Humanist Association, Institute for Science and Human Values, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, UU Humanists Clearwater, Atheists of Florida, UU Humanists Tampa,* Freethinkers@USF,* plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote serious secular discussion and activity about important issues in our area and beyond.

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 secular / freethought / Humanist /Atheist movement .

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments . JP

Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net <http://www.tampabaycor.org/>



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

When climate scientists talk about carbon, they usually do so in terms of parts per million. During the last ice age, when much of North America was covered in glaciers a mile thick, carbon-dioxide levels in the atmosphere were around a hundred and eighty parts per million. For the ten thousand years leading up to the industrial revolution, they hovered around two hundred and eighty parts per million. By 1992, when the Framework Convention was drafted, they had reached three hundred and fifty parts per million. As MOP followed COP, carbon-dioxide levels kept rising. This spring, they topped four hundred parts per million.

Owing to the CO₂ that's been pumped into the air so far, average global temperatures have risen by about 0.85 degrees Celsius (1.5 degrees Fahrenheit). This relatively small increase has produced some very large effects: almost half of the permanent Arctic ice cap has melted away, millions of acres' worth of trees in the American West have died from warming-related pest infestations, and some of West Antarctica's major glaciers, containing tens of thousands of cubic miles of ice, have started to disintegrate. But the system has yet to reach a new equilibrium, so even if CO₂ levels were to stop rising tomorrow the world would continue to warm, by about .5 degrees Celsius (.9 degrees Fahrenheit).

To hold warming to less than two degrees Celsius, the best estimates available suggest that total emissions will have to be kept under a trillion tons of carbon. The world has already consumed around two-thirds of this budget. If current trends continue, the last third will be used up within the next few decades.

USF Freethinkers

Join Freethinkers@USF for genuine, conversational discourse and a communal atmosphere.

Freethinkers@USF is a cosmopolitan collective of USF students promoting critical thinking and pluralism through dialogue and reasonable inquiry. Join the official group and vote on upcoming discussions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/>

For more information contact: fadibitar@mail.usf

Tampa Astronomy Club

Welcome to the [Museum Astronomical Resource Society](#), also known as the M.A.R.S. astronomy club. M.A.R.S. is sponsored by the [Museum of Science and Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League](#) and [Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news and astronomical information to our membership and to the public.

There's only one thing the people of M.A.R.S. enjoy more than observing the heavens... that's sharing it with others! Whether you are new to astronomy and curious about how to experience it, or a seasoned veteran looking for an active club to spend observation time with. We invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings as our honored guest.

Monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd floor of MOSI in the Science Works Theater, and take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Details & RSVP:

<https://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/>

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc.

(SPAC), has been meeting continuously since 1927.

It was incorporated in 1979 as a nonprofit, tax deductible organization.

For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members and the public. For additional information send your emails to:

spaceaminer@gmail.com

Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November and December when it is on the third Friday) at the Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL., at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)



Toni Van Pelt,
ISHV



Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH



Mark Brandt,
UUCH



Chris Brown,
MAF



Jenn Hancock,
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS



Jim Peterson,
HSS, TBPC



Al Hann
AoF

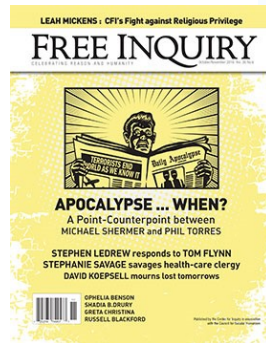
TBCoR Leadership Team 2016

Recommended Magazines



Six times per year *Skeptical Inquirer* publishes critical scientific evaluations of all manner of controversial and extraordinary claims, including but not limited to paranormal and fringe-science matters, and informed discussion of all relevant issues.

From world-class columnists to thought-provoking cover features to commentaries from every branch of the secular humanist movement, *FREE INQUIRY* has it all ... and for the first time, every word of the current issue is available online.



Skeptic magazine examines extraordinary claims and revolutionary ideas, promotes critical thinking, and serves as an educational tool for those seeking a sound scientific viewpoint. Each issue examines a specific theme.



The *Humanist* magazine applies **humanism**—a natural and democratic outlook informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion—to broad areas of social and personal concern. In pursuit of alternative ideas, the *Humanist* airs opinions that may not necessarily reflect those of the editors, publisher, or the American Humanist Association (AHA).



For 50 years, *American Atheist* magazine has been a leading voice and resources for atheism in the marketplace of ideas. With content from huge range of contributors, including American Atheists staff, bloggers, authors, scientists, and activists, *American Atheist* is an extremely valuable resource for atheists throughout the nation. *American Atheist* is published quarterly.

Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought goodies:
Pins, jewelry, 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 Then pick it up at the next meeting **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

TITLE

1. The Expanding Circle
2. In Gods we Trust
3. Why Evolution is True
4. The Second World
5. Denialism
6. The Selfish Gene
7. Democracy Incorporated
8. The Upside Irrationality
9. The End of Growth
10. The God Delusion
11. All That We Share
12. Sex, Time, and Power
13. Sex at Dawn
14. What liberal Media
15. The End of Faith
16. Plan B
17. The Portable Atheist
18. Open Society
19. Non Believer Nation
20. God on Trial
21. Natural Experiments of History
22. The Missionary Position
23. Life Inc
24. A brief History of Time
25. Breaking the Spell
26. The Philosophy of Humanism
27. The Quotable Atheist
28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In God. G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About World
33. Imagine There's no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
35. What the Dog Saw
36. Sway
37. The Better Angels of our Nature
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded
40. Gaming the Vote
41. Subversion Fable
43. Evolution and the Big Question
44. Why People Believe Weird Things
45. The World is Curved
46. The Snow Ball
47. The Moral Landscape
48. How We Believe
49. Full House
50. The Origins of Political Order
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain
53. Science Friction
54. Genius
55. Inevitable Illusions
56. Sex & God
57. Being Right Is Not Enough
58. Loser Takes All
59. Taking Back Politics
60. What Happened in Ohio?
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible
63. Database Systems (Complete Ver.)
64. Reluctant Database Administrators
65. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
66. Inevitable Illusions
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do
69. Bonk
70. What Money Can't Buy
71. Financial Shenanigans
72. Sex & God
73. Best American Non required Reading
74. Reporting at Wit's End
75. Corporations are not People
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president?
77. Culture of Honor
78. Rot on the Vine
79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker New!**

AUTHOR

Peter Singer
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Nisbett – Cohen
Stenesh
Kaye

For even more access to Freethought history and perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prahl's Freethought Library. Contact fprahl@verizon.net

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



Atheism sprinting into the future!

Tracy Thomas; Chair, Al Hann, Pres. pro-tem,

Join members of our Tampa chapter at our headquarters / Studio Building on So. Westshore.

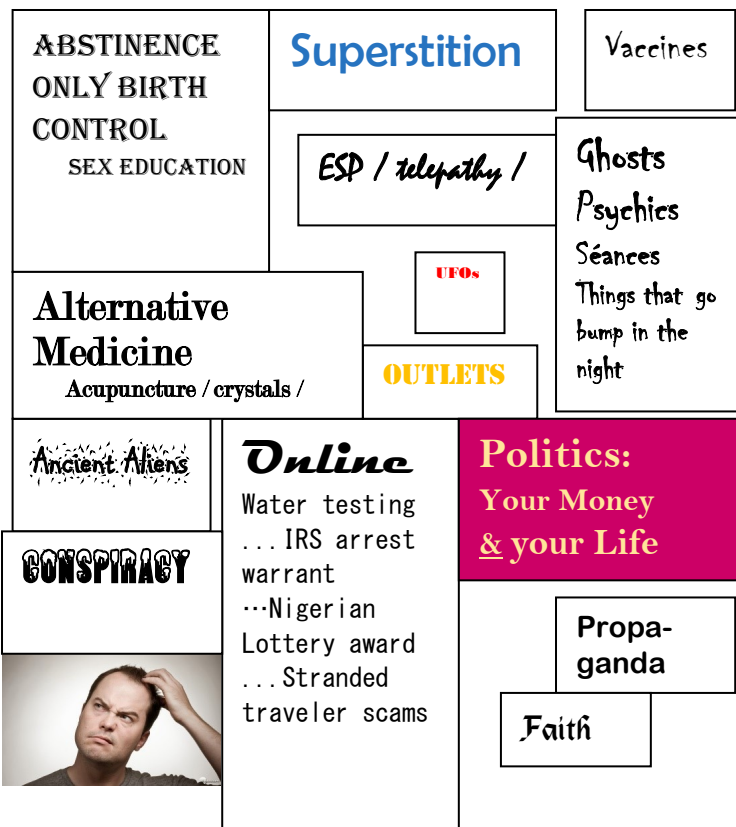
See [AoF Meetup](#) for details Website: <http://aof.ngo>

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

For information on current activities for this month, see our comprehensive web site:

[Http://aof.ngo](http://aof.ngo)

Are you Skeptical enough?



Are these Valuable Insights, or Costly Wastes of Time?

Our panel of experts including: Dave Dockery, Ryan Cragun & other surprise guests will lead an interactive learning experience about the ways of critical thinking.

~Skepticamp -2 is a project of Atheists of Florida~

January 14th 2017

at the UU Clearwater Social Hall, 2470 Nursery Rd. Clearwater

1pm – 5pm (doors open at 12:30pm)

Light Refreshments will be available

Admission

Info & Tickets available online at: aof.ngo til January 7th 2017

\$10 for non AOF members; or \$7.50 when purchased at Winterfest

\$5 for paid AOF Members (Meetup doesn't qualify); \$15 at the event door (for all not prepaid as above)

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com

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

- * Provide intellectual and emotional support to each other and to others in our community who share our philosophy.
- * Foster humanistic moral values and ethical behaviors.
- * Promote a naturalistic worldview wherein beliefs must be verified by a scientific examination of evidence.
- * Defend the separation of church and state at all levels of government as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.
- * "To Smell the Roses Along the Way"

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008.
Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa,
every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.

November 21st

Topic: tba

See our Meetup site:

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

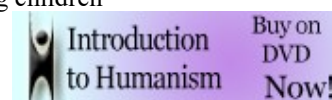
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a 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](https://www.facebook.com/).

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



Clearwater, Florida



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



Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. 300 S Duncan Ave Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755. [Map](#)

Check out *Doc's Café* to discuss serious ideas & issues.

Find us at:

www.tampa-bay.org
**We repair member's
computers Free!**

The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers



ATHEISTS in FOXHOLES!

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 Brown
(christbrown@yahoo.com)
MSgt, USAF (Retired)
Co-Organizer:

**MacDill Atheists & Secular
Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB**

Clearwater UU Humanists

Usually on the 3rd Sunday, at 12:30

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.

Sunday, November 20, 12:30



2017 Freethought Cruise with Hemant Mehta

<https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/> March 16-20, 2017



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

Press on: nothing in the world can take the place of perseverance. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. ~ Calvin Coolidge

Hazarding a guess as to how most readers of this newsletter will vote in November—with skeptical thinking, research, and civic duty—please allow me to recommend to you some objective resources that I use and trust.

1. **[Vote Smart](#)** – Picture this: thousands of citizens (conservative and liberal alike) working together, spending endless hours researching the backgrounds and records of thousands of political candidates and elected officials to discover their voting records, campaign contributions, public statements, biographical data (including their work history) and evaluations of them generated by over 400 national and 1300 state special interest groups. Every election these volunteers test each candidate's willingness to provide citizens with their positions on the issues they will most likely face if elected through the Political Courage Test.
2. **[PolitiFact](#)** – Find out which politicians and pundits are telling the truth, which ones are stretching it, and which ones are making statements we rate Pants on Fire.
3. **[FactCheck](#)** – “a nonpartisan, nonprofit consumer advocate for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception in U.S. politics.”
4. **[Vote411](#)** – Vote 411 is a project by the league of women voters and aims to educate both men and women about the how and where to vote. You can find out information about registering to vote (deadline is typically a month before elections) and general voter information in every state. This is a good place to check out if you are new to voting and are looking for general guidance on the voting process and not the issues.
5. **[VoteEasy](#)** – Make voting easier—To find your best match, simply click on the tab of each subject that you are interested in and answer the questions. Be sure to appropriately rank the importance of each issue to you. As you answer the questions, VoteEasy will cumulatively compare your answers to those of the various candidates and rank the candidates with the most similar positions closest to you, while those who differ the most appear furthest away. To see the exact positions of a particular candidate, simply click on their picture to pull up the candidate's profile and you can see what we have determined would likely be their answer to each question based on their past speeches, comments, and votes.
6. You can see how your member of Congress voted on freethought issues in this session at: <http://bit.ly/2eJKQ0N>

With those tools, you should be well able to make a stress free decision on which politicians to vote for, and for those who win, keep in contact to promote your interests! Best wishes, Voter, Rick O'Keefe, Ed.

Nothing is easier than self-deceit. For what each man wishes, that he also believes to be true. ~ Demosthenes, Third Olynthiac

Please Support CFI-Tampa Bay

Ready to put your humanism in action? Join now to keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, and become a

JOIN NOW



Online Tools for Skeptical Fact Checking

Full article: <http://bit.ly/1KLjGvI> Tamar Wilner, August 24, 2015, Copyright © 2015 *Skeptical Inquirer*

Changes to the media over the past few decades have brought many distressing trends. Social media tend to reward emotional manipulation over truth-telling. News outlets, even well respected ones, rush to publish rumors and poorly substantiated claims. The fragmentation of news into ideological islands and search engines' tendency to cater to our preferences have helped to polarize viewpoints. But while we're arguably awash in more misinformation than ever before, online media have also enabled tools and sources that help us evaluate dubious claims. I recently spoke at the Skeptic's Toolbox, the annual skeptical workshop in Eugene, OR, about the variety of fact-checking tools available. It was less a lecture than a conversation, as the participants provided many of their own suggestions. While we can't pretend to be comprehensive, our combined lists should provide a good starting point for your fact-checking needs.

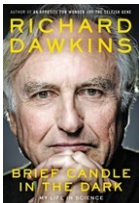
What is "Fact Checking"?

There are a variety of ways to answer this question. One way to think of fact checking is in light of its role in forming and evaluating arguments. As skeptics, we spend a lot of time looking for logical fallacies. But it takes more than sound logic for a conclusion to be true: the premises of the argument must be true as well or the entire argument falls apart.

We can investigate the soundness of our premises by examining internal consistency, external plausibility, and source validity.

- Internal consistency: If you read a claim and there are points of disagreement within the claim, that's a sign of something wrong.
- External plausibility: We should check the story against what we already know, and we may also do more research to check it out further.
- Source validity: We must identify the source of the claim, verify the source's identity, and consider the source's motives.

The extensive Fact-Checking Toolbox is available on-line from : <http://bit.ly/1KLjGvI>



Richard Dawkins' NEW book!
Exclusive autographed copy for only \$46.95 plus S&H. Almost sold out!
 Go to: www.evolvetampa.com

Ever wonder what Florida Freethought groups are doing?



Now you can easily know. Atheists of Florida have a new freethought Calendar:

<http://atheistsoffloridainc.org/calendar/>

Know what's going on around the entire state.

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



We welcome your participation as an active members to the board. Donations are also much needed. The [Greater Tampa Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union](#) is chartered for the local ACLU membership of Greater Tampa including the Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Polk and Sumter Counties of Florida. Pinellas County ACLU members have a separately chartered chapter. The southern Greater Tampa Bay counties are chartered to the Sarasota Chapter of the ACLU of Florida.

For more information, e-mail us at ACLUFL_Tampa@yahoo.com



Or write us at P.O. Box 18245
 Tampa, FL 33679-8245

or c/o the ACLU of Florida
 4500 Biscayne Blvd, Suite 340
 Miami, FL 33137-3227.

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Humanistic Judaism of Tampa Bay

Visit their [Meetup](#)
 or [email to Jeff Lipkes](#)

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Founded in 1988 by [Gary P. Posner, M.D.](#), 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. [Read More!](#)

Scientific Reasoning at the USAF Academy: An Examination into Titanium-Treated Necklaces

by Craig A. Foster, Christopher K. McClernon, and Richard F. Reich, *Skeptical Inquirer* · Feature · Volume 40.3

We used a classroom experiment at the United States Air Force Academy to examine whether [SEP] necklaces infused with microscopic-particle titanium, such as those sold by Phiten Corporation, [SEP] improve emotional well-being.

The Screening Test that Caused an Epidemic

by Harriet Hall, *Special Articles* · *SkepDoc's Corner*
October 21, 2016

Just because you *can* screen for a disease doesn't mean you *should*.

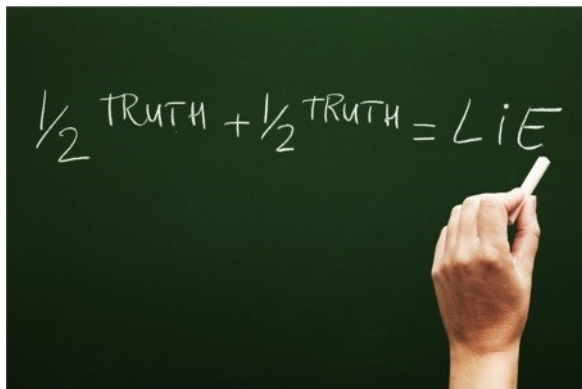
Stick It In Your Ear! How Not To Do Science

by Harriet Hall, *Skeptical Inquirer* · Feature · Volume 40.3

Ear acupuncture claims to relieve sore throats. A new study seeming to support that idea is so poorly done that it provides a textbook example of how to distinguish between good and bad science.

Gallows Ghosts? Mystery at Brisbane's Tower Mill, by Joe Nickell, *Skeptical Inquirer* · Investigative Files · Volume 40.3

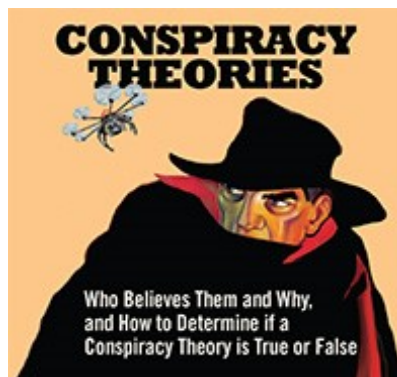
Residents in the neighborhood in the mid-twentieth century reported that "sometimes when they looked up at the small window facing the street they could see a faint glow and a figure inside the tower, swinging gently from side to side."



The Top Ten Strangest Beliefs

Michael Shermer has compiled a list of the top 10 strangest beliefs that he has encountered in his quarter century as a professional skeptic.

[Download the free PDF](#)



Who believes them? Why? How can you tell if they're true?

What is a conspiracy theory, why do people believe in them, and why do they tend to proliferate? Why does belief in one conspiracy correlate to belief in others? What are the triggers of belief, and how does group identity factor into it? How can one tell the difference between a true conspiracy and a false one?

[Download the free PDF](#)

A thing is not proved just because no one has ever questioned it. What has never been gone into impartially has never been properly gone into. Hence skepticism is the first step toward truth. It must be applied generally, because it is the touchstone. ~ Denis Diderot

The general root of superstition is that men observe when things hit, and not when they miss, and commit to memory the one, and pass over the other. ~ Francis Bacon

BRANDON - Psychology: Myth vs. Reality, by Barry Silber

Saturday, November 12, 2016, 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM

[Brandon Regional Library](#) 619 Vonderburg Dr, Brandon, FL, Room 1



Summary: Perhaps the primary goal of higher education is to teach critical thinking, which is defined as thoroughly examining all sides of an issue, being objective, and employing the scientific method. This lecture will explore and discuss the science of Psychology, elaborating on various myths relating to human behavior, and the factual responses to these myths.

About Barry Silber, 2014 Association of Florida Colleges' Professor of the Year: Website <http://bit.ly/2eNqAJm>.

This is Barry's second presentation for CFI-Tampa Bay. His first was warmly received, so here is Brandon humanists' chance to take part. Barry won't just lecture. "Class" participation is a must, and is a fun way to make an audience think.

Please bring non-perishable, *undented* cans, and *unexpired* food for our Food Pantry.

Don't forget to join or renew your **membership** in CFI-Tampa Bay, or just donate: <http://bit.ly/CFI-TB-membership-Donations>



Do you know—there is a local humanist/atheist group specially serving **military active and retired members** in West Central Florida, centered at MacDill AFB.

If you are a **military freethinker**, please check this out.

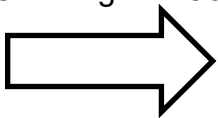
On the web at:

www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris (christbrown@yahoo.com) MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:
MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB

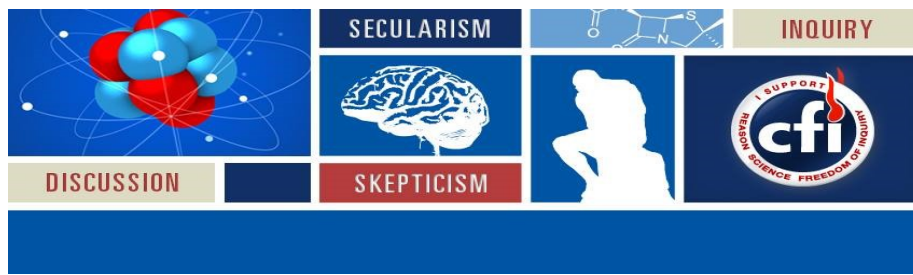
Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Astrophysicist, Humanist, Director of the Hayden Planetarium, star of the new version of Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* series is coming to TAMPA.



Thursday, November 17, 7:30 PM

At the Straz Center—Morsani Hall
1010 N Macinnes Pl, Tampa 33602 [MAP](#)
Click [here](#) for more information.





Curious about Secular Humanism?

If you've rejected traditional religion (or were never religious to start), you may be asking, "Is that all there is?" It's liberating to recognize that supernatural beings are human creations ... that there are no such things as "spirit" or "transcendence"... that people are undesigned, unintended, and responsible for themselves.

But what's next?

For many, mere atheism (the absence of belief in gods and the supernatural) or agnosticism (the view that such questions cannot be answered) aren't enough.

Atheism and agnosticism are silent on larger questions of values and meaning. If Meaning in life is not ordained from on high, what small-m meanings can we work out among ourselves? If eternal life is an illusion, how can we make the most of our only lives? As social beings sharing a godless world, how should we coexist?

For the questions that remain unanswered after we've cleared our minds of gods and souls and spirits, many atheists, agnostics, skeptics, and freethinkers turn to secular humanism and the hard-hitting bimonthly journal of the Council for Secular Humanism, a program of the Center for Inquiry. [FREE INQUIRY](#) has it all.

University of South Florida Humanities Institute

The Fall 2016 [lineup of speakers](#) ends with this engaging speaker.

Check out the free Fall 2016 newsletter here.
http://bit.ly/2bO9rPS_FallNewsI_USFHI

In November, Thursday, the 17th, CWY 206,
6:00pm, reception to follow

Why We Need Awe, with Michelle Lani Shiota

Her talk will offer an overview of modern understanding of positive emotions' adaptive and social functions, with supporting empirical evidence. In particular, the talk will highlight the emotion awe.

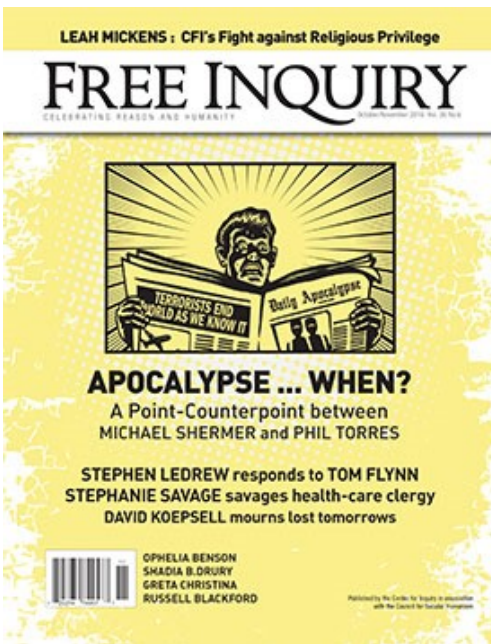


[Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science](#)

"I think most believers are good people. Although religious doctrine is generally irrational, divisive, and irrelevant to human values, some religions have good teachings sprinkled in with the dogma, and many well-meaning believers, to their credit, concentrate on those teachings. Surveying the smorgasbord of belief systems, we notice that they occasionally talk about peace and love. Who would argue with that? Sermons and holy books may encourage charity, mercy, and compassion, even sometimes fairness.

These are wonderful ideas, but they are not unique to any religion. We might judge one religion to be better than another, but notice what we are doing. When we judge a religion, we are applying a standard outside of the religion. We are assuming a framework against which religious teachings and practices can be measured. That standard is the harm principle. If a teaching leans toward harm, we judge it as bad. If it leans away from harm, it is good, or at least better than the others. If a religious precept happens to be praiseworthy it is not because of the religion but in spite of it. Its moral worth is measured against real consequences, not orthodoxy or righteousness."

– Dan Barker, *Life Driven Purpose*, pg 55
So much more to read [HERE](#). <http://bit.ly/2dggynJ>



Every
word
of the
current
issue is
[online](#).

Our local [Meetup](#) makes it easy to view and RSVP to our activities and some affiliated events. The value to us of your joining our Meetup is that we need to know how many folks expect to attend an activity. Some programs are limited in seating; some require ordering books, etc.; some are open only to paid-up CFI members; and some require prepayment.

Humanist Group Continues Legal Battle Against Florida Police Department for Hosting Community Prayer Vigil

By [Heather Clark](#) on September 27, 2016

OCALA, Fla. — A prominent humanist group is seeking summary judgment in a lawsuit against a Florida police department for hosting and promoting a community prayer vigil in 2014, which it asserts is an unconstitutional government entanglement with religion.

The American Humanist Association (AHA) had sued the Ocala Police Department in November 2014 two months after it held the vigil, which was meant to combat a wave of crime in the city.

“We are facing a crisis in the City of Ocala and Marion County that requires fervent prayer to show unity and help in this senseless crime spree that is affecting our community,” read a letter posted to the Department website and social media pages, and signed by Police Chief Greg Graham.

“I am urging you all to please support the very important ‘Community Prayer Vigil’ ... to be held in our Downtown Square located in the heart of the city,” it said.

AHA then contacted Graham to demand the removal of the letter, but he refused. Mayor Kent Guinn stood by Graham.

“There is nothing in the Constitution to prohibit us from having this vigil,” he allegedly wrote in response to one complaint. “Not only are we not canceling it, we are trying to promote it and have as many people as possible to join us.”

Therefore, the prayer gathering went forward, which generated several hundred attendees. According to AHA, some speakers included officers with the Ocala Police Department, who “preached Judeo-Christian religion to the crowd in a style consistent with revivalist and evangelical religion and participated in religious worship, praising God, calling for God’s assistance, and encouraging verbal participation and responsive chanting from the crowd.”

In November 2014, AHA [sued](#) the Department, asserting that its actions “had the effect of favoring and promoting theistic religion, particularly monotheistic religion, over non-theistic religion and beliefs.”

Read the rest [HERE](#). <http://bit.ly/2erwFO9>

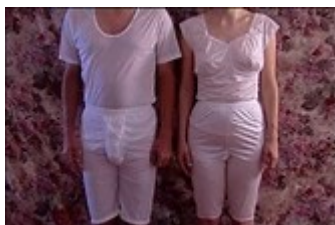
FALL 2016 BLOWOUT SALE

You asked for it over and over again,
SO HERE IT IS!

Freshly laundered and used only once, yes, it's the Annual Mormon Thrift Shop Heavenly Undergarment SALE.

Donated by the godly faithful upon their translation to their heaven, these blessed underwear have proven their all-hazard worth. Let them no swaddle you with confidence and hope.

ORDER NOW B4 it's TOO LATE! Specify M/F—\$35 ea.
Moroni's Outlet, 12 Temple Ave., Ogden, UT USA



N.B.—Models not included.

ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay

[ACLU Responds to Florida Supreme Court Ruling State's Death Sentencing Statute Unconstitutional](#)

News/Press Release October 14, 2016

[Study: Arresting Youth for Common Misbehavior Harms Public Safety](#)

News/Press Release September 14, 2016

[Gainesville Woman Care, LLC v. State of Florida](#)

Case August 17, 2016

[ACLU Sues Florida Prison Officials over Refusal to Recognize, Provide Medical Treatment to Transgender Woman](#)

News/Press Release August 15, 2016

[ACLU of Florida Statement on the Police Shooting of an Unarmed Man in North Miami](#)

News/Press Release July 21, 2016

[Gainesville Woman Care, LLC v. State of Florida - Plaintiffs-Petitioners' Initial Brief](#)

Legal Document May 25, 2016

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – November 2016 Calendar



This is produced from preliminary information. *Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.*
 Your **RSVP** is requested, and often is required for admittance. *Meeting planners need this information.*
Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://www.tampabaycor.org/>



2nd Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Social, with Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP: http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida , Inc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup
1st Saturday, 2 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists
TBA – various activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home
TBA - numerous events— next Spring	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary!
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required. Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members.</i> http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists
4th Saturday, 10:30 AM; <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. RSVP is required. http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers
4 th Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar
2 nd Saturday plus various other times/venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY AREA– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN



December—Winterfest Pot Luck; February—Darwin Day