

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Vol. 3 No. 7 July 2014 Jim Peterson, Editor

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Coming soon...

Learn the secrets of not being duped:



Skepticamp

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason presents an afternoon of honing critical thinking skills on **Sunday September 14th, 2014, from 12:30 – 4:30 pm at 5103 S West Shore Blvd Tampa FL.** * This is a free event, open to everyone. In this age of spin and deceit, we need to reduce our vulnerability to the ploys of manipulative advertisers, crafty politicians, the unscrupulous and the fraudster.

- We've all seen the stories on TV of people being duped by charlatans. We all need to build up our mental armor.
- The tidal wave of scammers on the internet and email seems overwhelming. Avoid the temptation to click that link!
- Today's employers look to hire individuals with the ability to deal with the complex processes and critical thinking skills needed in the workplace.

Critical thinking is a key to success in negotiating modern life for people of all ages. We are offering a variety of discussions, lasting about 20 minutes each. Topics are still being developed, but will include such skills as:

- ⇒ How to spot a bad argument.
- ⇒ Basic rules of logic. How science works.
- ⇒ How to research claims, ideas, and institutions, and political candidates.
- ⇒ Where to find the facts and stay sharp and skeptical, how to find help.
- ⇒ Popular subjects as: quackery, climate change, religious claims, spotting fraud on-line. Attendees are encouraged to participate in the discussion by asking questions and sharing experiences. ...and more!

Contact **Judy** to reserve limited seating.

* Particulars may be subject to change.

Hold that date...

September Online workshop – Why Create a Humanist Community, and How To Do It *Jen Hancock and Ann Fuller*

Jennifer Hancock and Ann Fuller, Humanist educators and organizational activists with several decades of experience between them, are offering an intensive workshop on “Why Create Humanist Community, and How To Do It” during September.

There's plenty of discussion within the Humanist movement about whether and how we should create Humanist communities. Some say that organizing monthly academic lectures is all that is needed. Others think that Humanism is most vibrantly expressed through volunteerism. Still others seek to create Humanist communities that mimic religious models of community. Regardless of what sort of community you may prefer, all successful communities have some common functions and features.

In this advanced workshop, Jennifer and Ann will identify, clarify, and examine the core issues: The primary communal needs of all people; Finding community – Where to get started; Attracting the right sort of people; and How do we keep our community going?

Registration- \$59 - early discount rate.
Start/end dates – September 1 / September 30, 2014
Deadline to register – September 1
Sign up early here: <http://secularactivism.org/>

Chickungunya Virus Alert !

Watch out for mosquitos. There is no current cure for the painful disease virus they carry. Be sure to use an



Insect repellent that contains DEET whenever you go outside in an area that might be infested.

Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – July, 2014 Calendar

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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.

07-05, 1 st Saturday, 2:00 PM	CLEARWATER– Countryside Library on 580 The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: Regular meeting - See page 3 http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
07-13, 2nd Sunday, 1:30 PM	TAMPA- See page 6 for details Atheists of Florida	Details & to RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/
07-13, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON– Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub. RSVP . http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/
07-21, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. For topic, see page 10. RSVP at Web site: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP
07-19, 3 rd Saturday, 11:00 AM	TAMPA– North Tampa Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic:: http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
07-20 Sunday, 5 P.M	CLEARWATER- Humanist Society of the Suncoast See page 4	Sunday Social Dinner for all members, friends and others interested in conversing with Humanists
07-TBA, Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON- at Crispers 11019 Causeway Blvd. Brandon, FL CFI Skeptics & Humanists	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
07-TBA, 4 th Saturday, 10:30 AM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE– CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. RSVP Details: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
07-TBA, Usually, Every last Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA- CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here <i>before</i> midnight, January 25th. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
7-19 Saturday summer social	CLEARWATER– UU Humanists,	Regular Sunday meeting. See page 7 for more information
07-00	ST. PETERSBURG - Astronomy Club	For dates, location, & and details: http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php
07 TBA	BRADENTON - Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. See page 13 /www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa October: Annual Humanists at Disney in Orlando. https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/
07-23 see Web site	SARASOTA – Humanists of Sarasota Bay	Many events: Details: Web site http://www.sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html
07-11 Friday Evening	TAMPA - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club	See Website : http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/ for all details.
07- TBA	TAMPA- Humanities Institute at USF	See website for full listing of many events and calendar.

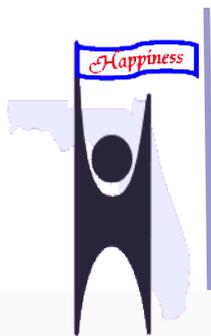


Organizers of these events will be most grateful to all who have the courtesy to RSVP for those events that require it.

**Watch for major COR events
scheduled throughout the year !**

"...being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead." *Kurt Vonnegut*

Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association



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

July 5th 2014

Volume 22 No. 7 July, 2014

Now is the Time to

~ **Join** ~

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast.
Annual Dues

- _ Trial -3 month- free news
- _ **Regular - \$25.**
- _ Reg. Couple - \$30.
- _ **Supporter - \$35/45 (W/ pin)**
- _ Life - \$200.
- _ Life Couple - \$250.
- _ Associate - \$10.
- _ Contribution for growth (See [pg. 5](#))



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 dues to:
Marios Psomas, Treasurer
Humanist Society of the Suncoast
1013 Connecticut Rd
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689



*= optional



Dr. Ryan Cragun

The Social Science of Defeating Religion

A stunning new book by **Ryan Cragun, Ph.D.** promises insight into the tenacity of organized religion. Most of us are familiar with the many works that successfully take on the philosophical challenge presented by religious assertions, but here Dr. Cragun gives us a rigorous scientific sociological assessment of the hold that faith has on the mind and outlook of a critical mass of the population. In this book he undertakes the helpful task of illuminating some of the important factors that play a role in mitigating the institutional and social resiliency of religious allegiances.

Ryan Cragun teaches Sociology at the University of Tampa, and has been an active participant and respected teacher, author, and researcher for a variety of pro-secular organizations in the Tampa Bay area.

His research has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, including: *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Nova Religion*, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, and *Journal of Religion and Health*. He is also the author of several books and has had numerous articles and essays published in *The Humanist*, and *Free Inquiry*. When he isn't working, he can typically be found spending time with his family, hiking, cooking, or watching science fiction.



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. Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food (before the expiration dates) or checks for TBH. Thanks to *Glenn Paul*, chair

Please join us for
this insightful
discussion.

**Saturday,
July 5th, 2014
at 2 PM
at**

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

**Many members go to
dinner afterwards.**

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:
Cognitive Neurosciences Inc. or, **The
Therapist Project**, or, **Linda Gurvitz**, or
Patricia Walters.



For Addiction Problems,
see:

Life Ring Secular Recovery



A Special Interest Group of the
**CENTER FOR INQUIRY
TAMPA BAY**



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The Movable Feast: the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner

Thai Bay Restaurants

on Sunday July 20th at 5:00 PM.

This restaurant is located at 1300 East Bay Dr. near Highland Rd. in Largo.

It features many Asian style dinners in the \$10+ range. Beer/wine available.

Please RSVP.

Please contact Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or reply to kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com for reservations by Saturday July 19th. Hope to see you there.

Ed. Note. Glenn is looking for someone to help with the task of selecting restaurants, and handling the RSVP's. If you can help, it will keep this popular program going. Call Glenn.

Laugh Lines

Perplexities

7-14

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a racecar is not called a racist?

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

Why do they use sterilized needles for lethal injections?
Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?
Do Lipton Tea employees take 'coffee breaks'?
Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

Lois Fries, Secretary

Anita Garcia

Dave Kovar, Vice President

Beth Maxie

Jim Peterson, President

Frank Prah

Marios Psomas, treasurer

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Jerry Moore, Mark Winterbottom,

Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn

Paul, Don Acenbrach Dec., Jackie

Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,

Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

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

Jordan Williams, Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com



The **Kochhar Humanist Education Center** hopes to

impact the level of community activism among chapters and affiliates of the American Humanist Association by providing case studies and citizen action guides; they bring to light issues on minority religions and ethnicities that humanist chapter members may not have considered before. It will also expand existing efforts like Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism and utilize other resources in working to eliminate the pernicious effects of ignorance and discrimination.

Tampa Humanist Association & CFI

Saturday, July 19th, 2014, 11:00 AM



The North Tampa Public Library

8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)

"Science, Philosophy and 3 "isms"

(Atheism, Agnosticism, Humanism)

Presented by **Dr. Wesley M. Johnson**

A single difference between Science and Philosophy renders one of them irrelevant. As all "isms" appear to be equivalent, how are we to know what to believe? What is belief? How do the three "isms" relate. We will briefly examine epistemology and "Justified True Belief." [Don't miss this one! JP]

Who is Wesley M. Johnson, PhD?

Dr. Johnson was born in Paterson, New Jersey. After attending twelve different schools, graduating from Passaic Valley High School in 1960, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served seven years aboard submarines as a nuclear reactor operator and electronics technician. Dr. Johnson worked in the nuclear electric power industry for 24 years holding positions from systems engineer up to assistant nuclear plant manager. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Nuclear Engineering Sciences, a Masters Degree and Doctorate in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Florida, Gainesville. Dr. Johnson has over thirty peer reviewed scientific publications and presentations and has nine issued United States patents. He recently founded a non-profit corporation to help senior citizens in the Town and Country area of Hillsborough County. He was owner of a small Biomedical Engineering Consulting company from 2007 through 2012. He retired as a Research Professor from the Department of Neurosurgery, College of Medicine, University of South Florida in 2007. He also held appointments as Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Human Factors Engineering up to 2010.

Dr. Johnson began his philosophical journey at fifteen when he was leader of the Young Peoples Group in a Southern Baptist Church. Subsequently he served on the Board of Directors of The Episcopal Church in Crystal River Florida as well The Unitarian-Universalist Church of Norwalk Connecticut, and as Religious Education Director in the Unitarian Fellowship of Perrysburg Ohio. In 1996 Dr. Johnson graduated from the Humanist Institute in New York City. He also served as an elected Councilman (D) in the Borough of Clementon, New Jersey (1976-1980).



HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

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

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

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

Gale Barron

A Progressive Headquarters for The Tampa Bay area

It has long been a dream for those of us who have struggled to advance the cause of Humanism, critical thinking, environmental awareness, compassionate social policies, and a defense of art, music, and science, to have a real building; a central office in our area.

With the move of AoF from its current location, comes a new opportunity for our organizations to organize a new cooperative, based on the Coalition of Reason, and dedicated to providing a foundation for a more powerful response to the problems of our world.

Such a building would provide office facilities, meeting space, and storage for equipment and materials for all the constituent organizations.

It will be as close to being a central location as possible; just south of the Tampa airport and easily accessible to the interstate, Veterans Expressway, and State Rd. 60.

To make this dream come true, we need organizational subscriptions and a team of local individual supporters willing to make a small pledge.

Humanism is a way of life, and a commitment to the success of our species. We need concrete institutions to create a sustainable base for the realization of our aspirations.

This is an idea still in the early stages of discussion. If you would like to contribute in any way; whether ideas or financing, please let us know. JP

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Humanist Quotes

"Of all the things which wisdom provides to make us entirely happy, much the greatest is the possession of friendship."

Epicurus

Florida Atheists



Atheism sprinting into the future!

Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter on **Sunday, July 13th at 1:30 PM, for our quarterly Family fun picnic. See AoF Meetup for more information.**

AoF outreach programs can be found at our **Meetup** site. Current newsletters are **available**; write **Athaifle@aol.com**. AoF's outreach also includes a full scale studio for the production of TV, web, and podcast programs. Your ideas are always welcome to help guide us in these creations.

JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our **website** and on our **Facebook page**.

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus. Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts (audio & video). Let us know if you wish to participate. We are a resource for those with questions and doubts about the standard religious narrative of life.

For most people, atheism represents the most focused and powerful criticism of the philosophical worldview with which most of us were raised. It is liberating for the same reason it attracts the enmity of those who are committed to the closed and changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. Because it is such a foundational and wrenching break with the past and because it leads the way in recognizing a broad range of possibilities for both scientific and social progress, atheism is an essential pillar for all other humanist and freethought philosophies. We join our coalition organizations to provide an essential part of the unique spectra of thought and activity that is vital to human progress. From a personal standpoint, we bring a human centered ethic to bear in serving our fellow human beings as they struggle to overcome the delusional psychology of years of religious conditioning. JP

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<http://bankofwisdom.com>

Life... on other worlds?

6

By **Bill Nye (the science guy)** *Thanx to Dawkins Foundation*

Every one of us has wondered if we're alone in the universe. Are there living things elsewhere? Is the Earth the only place we'll ever know that has life? That's the question posed by [this month's cover story](#) in *National Geographic*. It's one I think we can answer, and maybe sooner than you think.

Many of us think of alien life the way it's depicted in science fiction—creatures that look quite a bit like humans in makeup and that all speak English with a non-American accent. These made-up aliens hail from distant star systems. But there's a place right here in our own solar system that may be teeming with life. It's [Europa](#), [a moon of Jupiter](#), one of the four that you can see with an inexpensive telescope, just as [Gameo Gameo](#) did.



If you have a telescope and an evening, you can chart the position of the Galilean moons on a note card, as I used to do with my dad. They'll appear as bright dots next to the larger disk of Jupiter. Observe them just a couple of hours later, and you'll see how fast they're moving in their orbits. Europa is unique among these four—it has an enormous ocean. In fact Europa's ocean has twice the volume of seawater that we have here on Earth.

In [astrobiology](#), the study of extraterrestrial life, it's generally agreed that living things need a solvent to move their chemicals around. So far, no one can come up with any solvent that's better for life than liquid water. Europa is inundated, even more than Earth is.

Out there, hundreds of millions of kilometers from the sun, you might expect the water to be entirely frozen. But Europa orbits Jupiter, and the giant planet's enormous gravity stretches and compresses Europa like a rubber ball squeezed in your palm. That motion becomes heat. It's like rubbing your hands together to keep warm, only on a planetary scale.

So while the outer core of Europa's ocean is a shell of ice some 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) thick, what's below is liquid. Shielded from radiation by solid ice and with plenty of internal heat, the sea of this alien world could well harbor life. Many investigators think it's certainly worth investigating, because a discovery of living things on another world would utterly change this one.

Sniffing Europa's Geysers

For the first time in history we have the chance to send a spacecraft out there to see if something is swimming around in all that water. Even better: Because of a remarkable feature of Europa, this mission would not be wildly expensive. We discovered it last year with the Hubble Space Telescope: [Europa has geysers](#) that continuously shoot Europa's extraterrestrial seawater into outer space. They shoot hundreds of tons of the moon's ocean to an altitude four times the height of our own Mount Everest. Can you imagine what such a thing would be like here on Earth? It would be astounding. It would be the number one wonder of our world.

Clearwater UU Humanists

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

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

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



UU Humanists will be meeting on **Saturday, July 19th**, at Benedict's Restaurant in Dunedin. Benedict's is located in the North end of the shopping Center on the Northwest corner of Curlew Rd and Alt 19. Price will be \$20 per person for meal, tax and tip. It's BYOB. Beth should be able to give you the time to show up. It'll be a good chance to socialize with our humanist friends and stay in touch over the summer. Seating is limited so folks need to contact Beth at bcounselor@aol.com to make reservations.



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 individual help. 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



Protecting Free Speech

It is almost certainly no accident that freedom of speech is one of the very first freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." The Constitution's framers believed that freedom of inquiry and liberty of expression were the hallmarks of a democratic society.

The First Amendment exists precisely to protect all forms of expression, from political dissent to even the most offensive and controversial speech, from government suppression. The best way to counter obnoxious speech is with more speech, not censorship.

From defending the speech rights of protesters during events like the 2003 FTAA ministerial meetings in Miami and the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa, to ensuring that groups have the right to express themselves no matter what the content of their speech, the ACLU of Florida has been instrumental in challenging government efforts to silence protest groups and stifle freedom of expression. For more: <http://aclufl.org/> Get more involved. **Run for a seat on your local ACLU board!**

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF JOIN THE ACLU



The Humanities Institute of USF

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

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

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

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

Mailing Address

Humanities Institute
4202 E. Fowler Ave.
Tampa, FL 33620
CPR 107

[Click here for Our 2014 schedule](#) 6/14

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

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

(* = not currently members of the Coalition)

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

Calendar:
Rick O'Keefe

Newsletter:
Jim Peterson

Web site:
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net



TBPC is an autonomous project of the Humanist Society.

Dave Kovar TBPC's Environmental Transportation Issues specialist, also brings his expertise to Greenlight Pinellas.



Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce Endorses Greenlight Pinellas Plan

Greenlight Pinellas supporters continue to gain strength in numbers. In June, the Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce board announced its endorsement of Greenlight, the tenth area chamber to announce its support of the plan.

Also in June, as the Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce announced support for the Greenlight plan, it joined the St. Petersburg Area, Clearwater, Clearwater Beach, Oldsmar Upper Tampa Bay, Tampa Bay Beaches, Central Pinellas, Dunedin, Greater Tampa and South Tampa chambers of commerce, along with nine city councils and six of seven county commissioners to date.



Did You Know?

Greenlight Pinellas will provide more transportation options to the more than 200,000 Pinellas County residents over the age of 65, and this is important because the nation continues to age. The baby boom generation is the largest in U.S. history, with more than 77 million people born between 1946 and 1964. With rising life expectancies, America's largest generation will also be the oldest ever.

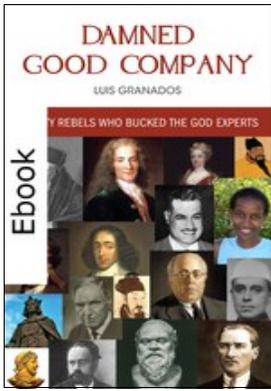
Inevitably, aging experts note, a large share will find that their ability to navigate by vehicle diminishes or disappears over time. These millions of older adults will need affordable alternatives to driving in order to maintain their independence as long as possible.

Pedestrian-friendly streets and recreational trails built with seniors in mind will help older Americans get around safely and remain active. But only adequate public transportation can assure that older adults are able to get to needed services and to travel as often or as far as they would like, without worrying about inconveniencing others.

(Source: Transportation for America, AARP)

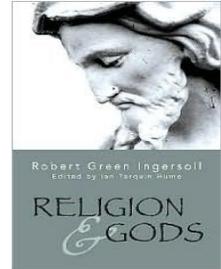
Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more.

The Humanist Press



Damned Good Company By Luis Granados

In *Damned Good Company: Twenty Rebels Who Bucked the God Experts*, author Luis Granados explores twenty cases, from Socrates to Ayaan Hirsi Ali, of brave challenges against those claiming a special authority from God. The author was recently the guest of the Tampa Humanists and delivered a memorable lecture. Paperback \$15.00 378 Pages, [Order here.](#)



Amid the 21st century's escalating religious tensions, Robert Green Ingersoll's views on the substance of religion and gods offer a firm foundation of logic and independent thought leading to a life examined and a life of happiness free of the shackles of religion. **Prometheus**

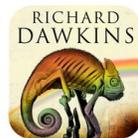
Pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

from: **Evolve Fish** <http://evolvefish.com/>

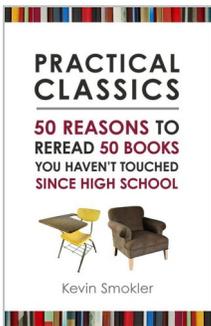
Read Humanist Periodicals: The world's leading minds can be read at: [The Humanist](#), [Free Inquiry](#), [Free Mind](#), [Humanist Perspectives](#), [Skeptical Inquirer](#), [Secular Humanist Bulletin](#), [The Florida Humanist Journal](#), [Skeptic](#), [Essays in Humanism](#), and many others. Look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

The Magic of Reality

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



Prometheus Press



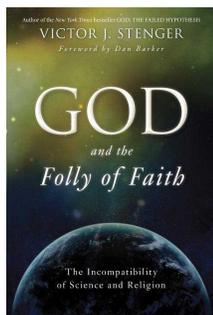
Practical Classics: 50 Reasons to Reread 50 Books You Haven't Touched Since High School.

A canon of contemporary literature that will re-illuminate our time and your life.

\$18.00 Paperback, 320 pages. [Order here:](#)

God and the Folly of Faith: The Incompatibility of Science and Religion

By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.
The story of the fight against superstition has been told before, but never like this. Victor Stenger confronts the battle between religious superstition and science with the eye of a trained physicist and the practicality of a superb teacher. 409 pages, Paperback, \$20.00 [Order here](#)



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

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 a God. G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About Rest of World. Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
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36. Sway
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55. Inevitable Illusions
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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
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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

AUTHOR

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- Scott Atran
- Jerry Coyne
- Panag Khanna
- Michael Specter
- Richard Dawkins
- Sheldon Wolin
- Dan Ariely
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Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008 at the Carrollwood Cultural Center in Tampa, every third Monday at 7. Come cogitate with us!

July 21st: Interpreting the Constitution



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

The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



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

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

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris

(christbrown@yahoo.com)

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

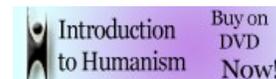
Jennifer is author of several books including; The *Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP

See much more at: www.Jen-Hancock.com.

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

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

Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).



Life Isn't Fair. Keep at it Anyway

Summer is almost upon us and I am excited to spend lots of time with my son. We have all sorts of plans. Places to go, things to see. Plus - we plan on just hanging out and enjoying the day.

We are lucky, because we have people we love and are generally excited by life. Most of the time anyway. But not everyone feels that way.

An astonishing number of people contemplate suicide every year. Not everyone kills themselves, but the struggle of just getting through the day is so overwhelming and exhausting that sometimes we think - why bother anyway.

I was speaking to Jennifer Michael Hecht the other day. She is a poet and the author of several books. Books like [The Happiness Myth: An Expose](#) and [Stay: A History of Suicide and the Philosophies Against It](#). She is considering doing a course at Humanist Learning Systems. Anyway - we were discussing the irony that when you write a book about happiness, as we both have, you suddenly get a lot of suicidal people contacting you asking you for advice.

It came as a shock to me. But people really do need help. I feel like the best thing I can do is remind people that yes - life is worth living even though it is difficult and if you don't want to kill yourself, but you don't want to continue being miserable, get some help and make some changes. It's difficult, but worth it. I've been there and done that and can tell you I wish I hadn't waited so long to seek professional help.

What's really cool is that Jennifer was interviewed today for a radio show and her advice is way better than mine. A woman listening to her interview called in and said she had been considering suicide but the ethical arguments made by Jennifer convinced her not to.

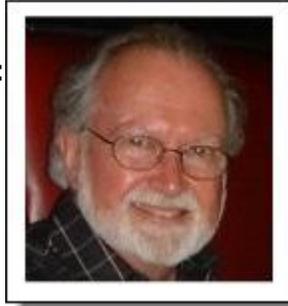
So what are these ethical arguments? And can and should Humanism, which has no prohibition against killing yourself take a stand in favoring living despite it all. Jennifer's answer is yes. Absolutely! One of the reasons to stay is that if you kill yourself, you encourage others to do so as well. Is that really the lesson you want to teach your kids and your loved ones? No, of course not. Choosing to stay is choosing to help others to stay as well. It's a pretty powerful ethical case for staying.

Jennifer Hancock

Institute for Rational Living

is the official psychoanalytical representative of Center for Inquiry:

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



Vincent Parr, PhD
Clinical Psychologist at Institute for Advanced Study MRL
President at Institute for Rational Living

Dr. Parr is a licensed Clinical Psychologist with over 40 years experience in Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) and Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). He also has 23 + years of experience in Mindfulness and Zen. He uses these two very powerful approaches to help people reach freedom -- that is, the freedom that comes from maximally eliminating suffering (often defined as chronic disappointment and frustration) and disturbance (Anger, Anxiety, Depression, and Guilt). Dr. Parr has been a consultant to the United States Air Force, Hayatt International, Bic Pen Corporation, the City of St. Petersburg, the St. Petersburg Police Department, the Institute for Rational Living, the Institute for Advanced study in Rational Psychotherapy, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Tampa for nine years. In addition, he sits on the national Board of Directors for the *Institute for Science and Human Values*.

Prepare for 2nd Annual Freethought Cruise

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

AH Appignani Humanist LC Legal Center

AHLC Files Motion of Contempt Against Public School for Prayer

May 7, 2014 – Rankin County School District in Mississippi includes formal Christian prayer in student awards ceremony.

American Humanist Association Wins Lawsuit Against Cross Monument in Lake Elsinore, California

April 23, 2014 – City officials decline to appeal ruling of federal judge

Humanists File Lawsuit Against "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance in New Jersey

April 21, 2014 – School-sponsored Pledge violates state constitution's equal protection law

AHA Sues for Equal Treatment of Humanist Inmates in Federal Prisons

April 8, 2014 – Lawsuit filed against correctional officials at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Lawsuit Demands Removal of 40-Foot Christian Cross from Government Property

February 25, 2014 – The AHLC files a suit on behalf of three plaintiffs demanding the removal of a 40-foot Christian cross on government property in , MD.



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

CAMP INQUIRY
IMAGINE. INVESTIGATE. ILLUMINATE.

[Click to register](#) Ages 7-16, Holland, NY



Rep. Robert Scott (D-VA) addresses participants at SCA's annual Lobby Day and Secular Summit, which took place last month on Capitol Hill.

The Secular Coalition for America's annual Lobby Day and Secular Summit took place last week on Capitol Hill. Secular activists who attended were addressed by a sitting U.S. Senator and three U.S. Representatives--the most ever at a secular event.

Attendees attended pre-scheduled meetings with more than 60 Congressional offices: 35 meetings with Senate staffs – including three U.S. Senators directly, and 25 meetings were schedule to take place with the staffs of Representatives – including two U.S. Reps directly. Approximately 5.7% of U.S. House offices and 35% of Senate offices were visited last week by nontheistic Americans. Of the 60 meetings to take place, 23 were with Republican offices, 37 were with Democratic offices.

Participants this year lobbied on issues of climate change, school vouchers, acceptance and respect for nontheists in the military, and reproductive rights. [View photos](#) from the event on our Facebook page, and stay tuned to the Secular Coalition's [YouTube channel](#) for videos from the various speakers and panels to be posted soon.

The Secular Coalition for America is pleased to announce that SCA Board of Directors President, [Amanda Metskas](#), will serve as the acting chief executive of the Secular Coalition effective immediately. Metskas has served on the Secular Coalition [Board of Directors](#) since 2009, including roles as Vice President (2013) and President, beginning in January of 2014. The Secular Coalition for America Board of Directors has formed a search committee, led by Vice President, [Patty Guzikowski](#), which will carry out the formal search for an Executive Director.



Florida's own chapter of the Coalition capably headed up by organizer, **David Williamson** of the central Florida Freethought community is very actively pursuing the goals set forth in the statement below:

The mission of the Secular Coalition for Florida is to increase the visibility of and respect for nontheistic viewpoints in the State, and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all. The 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. We need your support to keep religious bias out of government.

- See more at: <http://states.secular.org/states/florida>





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

We also maintain that values are properly the subject of study and discussion as much as empirical claims. The Center for Inquiry studies and promotes human values based on a naturalistic outlook. Ideological doctrine and religious dogma have no more right to dictate our moral norms than they do to influence scientific research.

In aiming to foster a secular society, we do not seek to abridge the rights of believers. We vigorously object to government support of religion and the use of religious dogma to justify public policy; we do not oppose the free exercise of religion. The secular society we are building is a community of reason and compassion in which the dignity and fundamental rights of all individuals are respected. If you agree with this, we solicit your membership and support. Visit our [Web site](http://www.CenterForInquiry.net), [Meetup](http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/), and [membership](http://www.CenterForInquiry.net/support/donate_now/) links: <http://www.CenterForInquiry.net> <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/> and http://www.CenterForInquiry.net/support/donate_now/



Rick O'Keefe

Saudi Arabia Tries to Silence CFI

at UN Meeting

Secular Humanists Condemn Kingdom's Human Rights Abuses, Right to Speak Supported by Other Member States

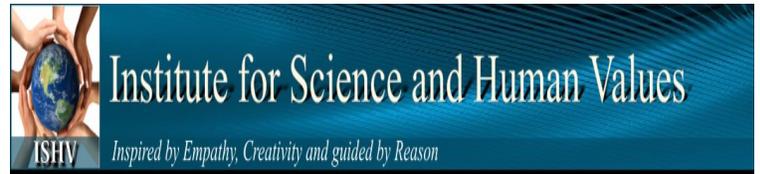
Saudi Arabia tried three times today to silence the Center for Inquiry at the United Nations Human Rights Council, attempting to stop CFI's representative from addressing Saudi Arabia's zealous persecution of dissidents and its sweeping crackdown on fundamental human rights.

See the video here: <http://bit.ly/CFISaudiVideo>

CFI representative Josephine Macintosh delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council in Geneva condemning Saudi Arabia's restrictions on freedom of religion, belief, and expression, highlighting the cases of two jailed human rights activists in particular:

Macintosh also highlighted the glaring tension between Saudi Arabia's abysmal human rights practices and its membership on the UN Human Rights Council, a body tasked with protecting and upholding the very rights that Saudi Arabia abuses.

But as she gave her statement, the representative from Saudi Arabia on three separate occasions interrupted Ms. Macintosh, demanding that the Human Rights Council Vice President Kateřina Sequeunsova shut down the discussion. See more [here](#).



ISHV will enlist the brightest scientists and scholars, in the US and around the world to find out how to better develop the moral virtues that we share as human beings. The Neo-Humanist Statement of Secular Principles and Values which guides this effort has been endorsed by more than 100 leading humanists, including Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker, former and writer Ann Druyan, wife of the late Carl Sagan. It lays out a positive and constructive vision of humanist morality based on reason. For more info:

<http://instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/>



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
Sarasota, Florida

Calendar of Upcoming main events:

July 23: 12: PM **lunch**, 1:45 PM **Current Affairs discussion group**.

New Dynasty Restaurant, 6131 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota ([map](#))

[more details»](#)

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

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the Humane use of technology. And always, there is the occasional random act of Kindness.

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Dave 'Doc' Dockery President,

Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org

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By local Humanistic Counselor,
Linda Faulkner



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



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

Practical Freethought

Thousands of your friends and neighbors in the Tampa Bay area feel the same as you. The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason is a group of local organizations joined together to increase the growth, visibility and acceptance of nontheists throughout the area.

All of these groups share common ground, while each has its own particular emphasis and atmosphere. Some are focused on scientific inquiry and education. Others are focused on ethics and community, activism or the arts. Others monitor state/church separation and fight for your civil rights. All alike are committed to promoting the wider acceptance of a more rational and contemporary view of humanity and the universe we live in.

TampaBayCoR.org is where secular people in the Tampa Bay area can discover groups to join, activities in which to participate, events to attend and like-minded people with which to socialize. In short, we want to help those who have grown beyond religious belief to find their philosophical home.

Those nonbelievers who are not ready, or who are unable, to “come out” can take comfort in knowing that they are not the only ones who accept the reality of a 100% natural world.

For the religious community, we want them to realize that, although non-theists reject the supernatural, we share with them compassionate human values that most religious believers embrace. In most ways, we are like them; hard working, taxpaying, moral citizens who care deeply about our families, our communities, our state and our country.

Non-theists are a large minority, larger than many minorities having much more political and cultural influence than we do. Based on the US Census Bureau estimate of Florida’s 2008 population and several polls, we estimate our statewide constituency at about 2,800,000 residents (more than 400,000 in the Tampa Bay quad-county area). TampaBayCoR has organized to increase our standing in the marketplace of ideas and to take our rightful place at the table of acceptance and equal rights. We invite all nontheists to support us in our efforts by joining and actively participating in one of TBCoR’s constituent groups.

Even if you never join a group or attend a meeting you can help Florida move forward by contributing to local or national participating organizations. And you can always help to further the nontheistic community just by standing up proudly for your reality-based life among your friends and family. It’s OK to not believe in gods. And, yes—not only can you be good without a god or religion, but in most cases, far better off. Millions of us are.

R.O.

Holidays of Special Interest

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

July is Cell Phone Courtesy Month

- 1st International Joke Day
- 4th Independence Day (down with George III)
- 11th World Population Day
- 14th Bastille Day (up with Marat?)
- 18th National Caviar Day (smells fishy to me!)
- 26th All or Nothing Day
- 30th Cheescake Day (Attn: Jerry Moore)



TBCoR Leadership Team 2014

Mark Brandt, Chris Brown, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O’Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas
UUCH MAF TBHF CFI HSS, TBPCC AoF

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Be Included!

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