

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Vol. 3 No. 6 June 2014 Jim Peterson, Editor

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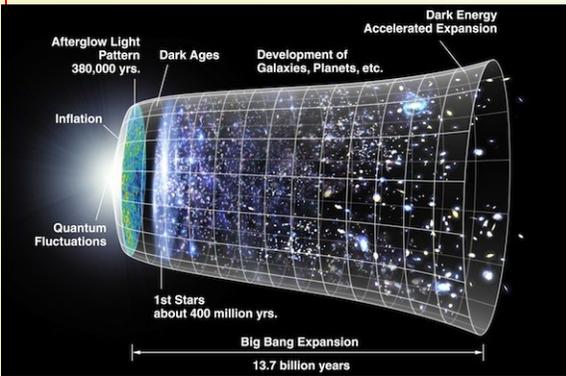


HUMANIST CHARITIES

[Click to connect!](#)

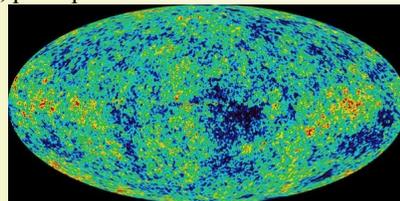
A Universe from Nothing!

A scientific materialist perspective



All graphics courtesy of NASA

A common question about the early evolution of the cosmos invariably arises: where did the singularity that started the Big Bang come from? For some time, many physicists and cosmologists have said it could be possible for our universe to have actually started from nothing – as wild and counterintuitive as that sounds. But without evidence this seems like a statement of faith, impossible to prove or disprove, and therefore outside the purview of true scientific discussion. Ever since philosopher, Karl Popper said that falsifiability is the demarcation between what is scientific and what is not, it felt like this might be the point where the scientific method would have to give way to the origin stories of myth. Now, perhaps not.



According to Scientific

American, a new paper that may be as important to our understanding of the Big Bang as was the detection of gravitational waves. A group from the Wuhan Institute of Physics and Mathematics in China has made the first rigorous [mathematical proof that the Big Bang could have spontaneously generated from nothing](#). They have demonstrated that the universe as pictured above is out of balance (only slightly, but sufficiently) which may be showing the influence of gravity from the existence of other adjacent universes. Stay tuned.

Our Best Letters

Recent public letters by Members

Let us know if you don't see your letter.

Breaching the wall

One looks at the headline hardly able to believe it is real. "Legislative prayer"?? Our highest court, the one that supposedly gives us the final interpretation of our Constitution, "okays legislative prayer"?

The descriptive passage explains: "All nine justices endorsed the concept of legislative prayer, with the four dissenters agreeing that the public forum 'need not become a *'religion-free zone,'* in the words of Justice Elena Kagan."

Doesn't the First Amendment to the Constitution infer that all government should be a religion-free zone? Could this latest reference to religion be a very small step toward the violation of a fundamental concept of our government?

Abigail Ann Martin, Brandon 5-12-14 TB Times

In the voters' hands

We would have had solar programs in place long ago if we had elected Al Gore or John Kerry.

Now we have a president who is trying to accomplish what many have been encouraging for years. He needs our support and the support of Congress and our state and local governments. Please vote this November for candidates who support a cleaner and safer United States.

Peggy Goodale, Largo 5-14-14 TB Times

Thanks for the silence

I would like to thank the Hillsborough County School Board for their recognition of diversity in the community by rejecting an opening prayer. While the recent Supreme Court decision certainly opens the way for prayer to be included, by observing a moment of silence the board respects the ability of all participants to reflect on the seriousness of their responsibilities in a manner that is appropriate.

Judy Adkins, Tampa 5-17-14 TB Times
(President, Atheists of Florida)

Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – June, 2014 Calendar

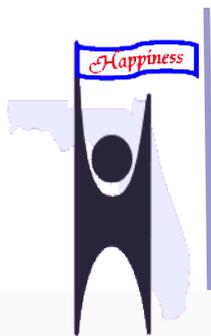
This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.

06-07, 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/
06-08, 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/
06-08, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON – Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub. RSVP . http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/
06-16, 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
06-21, 3 rd Saturday, 11:00 AM	TAMPA – North Tampa Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic: http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
06- 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
06-22, Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON at Crispers 11019 Causeway Blvd. Brandon, FL CFI Skeptics in the Pub	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
06-28, 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/
06-30, 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/
6-01, Sunday, 12:30 AM	CLEARWATER – UU Humanists,	Regular Sunday meeting. See page 7 for more information
06-On Hiatus	ST. PETERSBURG Astronomy Club	Details, location, & and RSVP to: www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club
06 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/
06-25 see Web site	SARASOTA – Humanists of Sarasota Bay	Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html
06-13 Friday Evening	TAMPA - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club	See Website : www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi for all details.
06- 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 !**



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

June 7th 2014

Volume 22 No. 6 June, 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: * _____

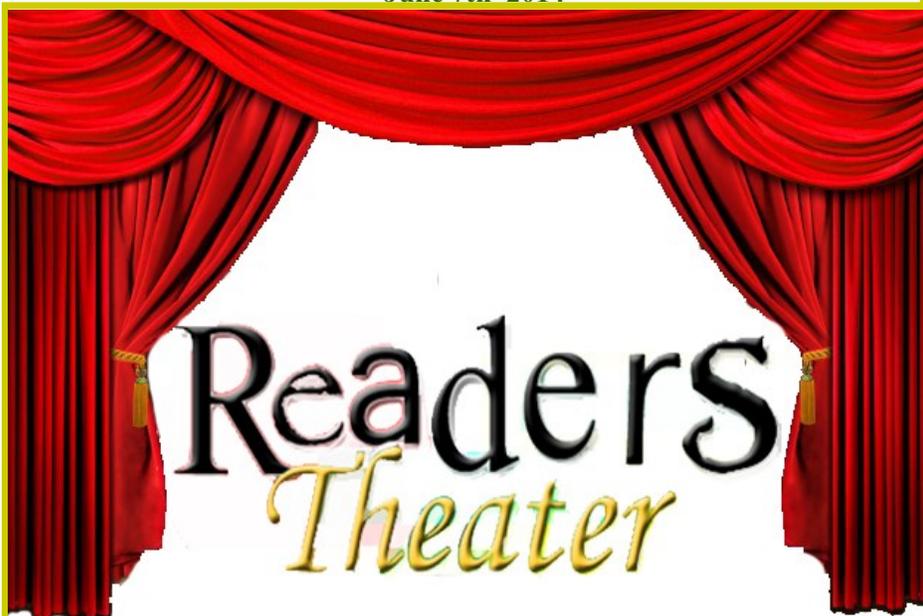
E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

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



*= optional



With Members of the Humanist Saturday Drama Troupe
Produced and directed by Jackie Jordan

There will be Comedy: You will laugh

You won't want to miss the thrilling pageantry, the lilting
thespian sonorities of our ever engaging company of fine actors
and noble raconteurs. We have an exciting lineup of diverse
entertainments as would boggle the mind of those of lesser wit.
Clearly, you are not one of them!

You'll kick yourself over and over for not having been present.
And you would deserve it. Avoid self flagellation - be there!



**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 fine
entertainment.

**Saturday,
June 7th,
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:
LifeRing 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

Savory Restaurant

located at 12881 Walsingham Road at the east end of a small strip Mall near the big Baptist church in Largo on Sunday June 22nd at 5:00PM. Walsingham is an extension of Ulmerton and this red and yellow colored restaurant is located at the junction of the two with a bright sign out front.

The Savory is a rather low priced eatery offering everything from soups, salads, sandwiches, eggs, pizza, pasta with many low priced dinners and plenty of Italian dishes under \$11 - a good wide range of affordable food. Beer and wine is available also.

To confirm your reservation, call or write Glenn Paul at kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-595-3347 by Saturday June 21st.

Laugh Lines

Lexophilia

6-14

- .. A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- .. The batteries were given out free of charge.
- .. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- .. A will is a dead giveaway.
- .. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- .. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- .. Police were called to a day care Center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- .. Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- .. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- .. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- .. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- .. When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
- .. Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

5/14

Thanks to: *Connie Purdum*

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

Lois Fries, Secretary
Anita Garcia
Dave Kovar, Vice President
Beth Maxie
Jim Peterson, President
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 Steve Brown, Jon Green, Mark Kligman,
 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

Next meeting:

Saturday, **June 21st**, 2014, 11:00 AM

The North Tampa Public Library

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



Come join us for a special video program on:

Effective Thinking

Open discussion will follow

The Tampa Humanist Association is the only AHA Humanist group in Hillsborough County. This is a county of more than 1 million people. If statistical averages are correct, than at least 150,000 of those people do not support conventional institutions of religion. Currently, our rolls do not number more than 20. I think we can agree that there is room for growth.

We are here to offer the people of Tampa, a local Humanist option.

Join today, or renew your dues. Only \$25/ year or \$35 with the Happy Humanist pin. \$5 more includes spouse + 2 pins.



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 it's 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

GOOD WITHOUT A GOD

On April 7th, over 25 humanist & atheists joined over 3000 religious participants at Tropicana Field for the FAST Social Justice Rally. The 10th annual Nehemiah rally was the largest, with plans for more attendees next year. Issues included juvenile justice, elementary school reading, dental care for disadvantage youth, and job opportunities for qualified ex-felons. FAST works year round with government leaders to brainstorm no net cost solutions to Pinellas county problems. Hillsborough, Pasco, and Polk have similar programs.



The annual cycle starts again in Fall, with small home-size meetings to discuss issues for next year. All COR are invited to participate and also join in the detail work groups that both research and brainstorm solutions and monitor the integrity of previous year promises.

The COR representatives were readily accepted by the overwhelmingly religious group. Next year, lets add to our presence to prove our "Good without God" motto. *Dave Kovar*

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 two 1-hour sessions, I have encountered children, some of whom have already had to repeat kindergarten, who barely recognize or are able to say the alphabet or the sound of the letter.

Teachers struggle with discipline issues and preparing the children for testing. With patience and intensive learning, you can help thee children grow into their potential.

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

Gale Barron

Humanist Quotes

“ History calls those men the greatest who have ennobled themselves by working for the common good; experience acclaims as happiest the man who has made the greatest number of people happy. ”

– Karl Marx 1818 - 1889

Florida Atheists



Atheism sprinting into the future!

Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter on **Sunday, June 8th at 1:30 PM**, at the regular location, 5103 S West Shore Blvd (North west corner of Price Street and West Shore, in the Puppy Manor building. Park along Price street and use the north entrance of the building). 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

Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better



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**.



National Secular Movement Update:



Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ)



Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)



Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)

The Secular Coalition is excited to announce that **Representatives [Rush Holt \(D-NJ\)](#) and [Barbara Lee \(D-CA\)](#) will be addressing attendees of our [Lobby Day & Secular Summit June 12-13th](#). They will be joined on Thursday morning by **Senator [Sheldon Whitehouse \(D-RI\)](#)**, who will offer the keynote address. Rep. Holt has twice presented Congressional resolutions to recognize February 12th as National Darwin Day, arguing that the recognition of scientific advancement is paramount for the nation. Rep. Holt is a strong defender of the separation of religion and government. He serves on the Committee on Education and the Workforce as well as the Committee on Natural Resources, where he is the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.**

For more info, contact the Coalition at:

<http://www.lobbyday.us/> or TEL. (202) 299-1091

Clearwater UU Humanists

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

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

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



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will be meeting on **Sunday, June 1st**, at 12:30 pm
Our speaker for this meeting will be

Dave Dockery. He will bring his expertise in technology to the question of its effect on our lives in the future.



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.

"...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

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Did you know that Florida recently started executing people with similar chemicals to those used in Oklahoma's horrifying botched execution of Clayton Lockett?

We can't risk a repeat of this nightmare happening in our home state. [Demand a moratorium on executions in Florida.](#)

Florida was the first state to start using Midazolam, the same untested drug added to Oklahoma's lethal injection protocol not long before Mr. Lockett's botched execution.

It's even more disturbing when you consider Florida's terrible record of 24 death row exonerations, more than any other state. Combine that with a recent law that takes away opportunities for prisoners to challenge death sentences, and it's easy to imagine Florida's long history of getting the death penalty wrong could mean someone dying for a crime they didn't commit.

Between untested lethal injection drugs and the disturbing track record of Florida death sentences getting it wrong, **the risk of the unimaginable - an innocent person dying in agony at the hands of the state - is too high for Floridians to allow this process to continue.** [Tell Gov. Scott to put an immediate stop to executions in Florida.](#) Thank you for standing in defense of fundamental human rights in our state.

People
Over Politics



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.

University of Miami geology professor, Dr. Harold Wanless sees his work as connecting the dots, recorded in carbon dating, that show how the seas rose in bursts as ice sheets disintegrated.

"That turns out to be the only thing we know about how fast ice can respond to climate change," he said.

One day last week, sitting in his office at the end of a maze of hallways on the bottom floor of UM's Cox Science Building, Wanless traced his conclusions on climate change to three turning points in the past three decades.

First came a 1980s workshop where a scientist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution presented a paper on rising sea level and tidal gauges. Wanless said he came home, recruited a grad student and started reviewing decades of recordings from tidal gauges. He even found indications of sea rise in his own neighborhood: Oysters attached to pilings on the Le Jeune Road bridge over the Gables Waterway had moved six inches higher since the 1940s.

Then in the 1990s, Mann, the Nobel Prize-winning climatologist, completed climate modeling that he said showed greenhouse gases were driving global warming. The final piece of the puzzle came when scientists found the warming was expanding the planet's oceans, making low-lying Florida, the porous ridge of a larger limestone plateau fingering into the Caribbean, particularly vulnerable.

"Then my talks on sea level rise could suddenly say global warming is real and the warming of our oceans was a good part of sea level rise," Wanless said.

Though some skeptics have argued that the planet has stopped warming because temperatures have stopped rising during the past 15 years, he says that's "hokey."

Greenhouse gases trap heat from the sun. That "back radiation" then gets absorbed by the oceans, which cover about 70 percent of the planet.

"That's the way it's always worked. Water has the great capacity to hold heat. It always has. It's wonderful," he said.

In the summers of 2012 and 2013, Wanless headed to western Greenland to see for himself what was happening with the planet's massive ice sheets. He camped at the bottom of the Jacobshavn glacier, which scientists have been closely watching for signs of collapse. When he flew over in 2012, he said, 97 percent of the ice sheet was glistening as it melted. It is also releasing huge amounts of methane from organic material trapped in the ice, one of the chemicals in the greenhouse gas cocktail that could cause even greater warming.

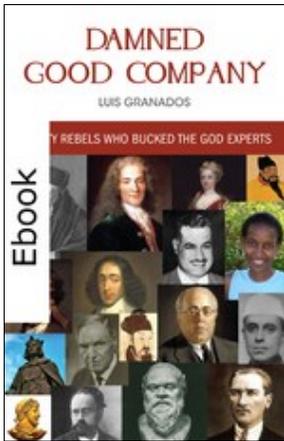
"In 2002, [scientists] thought the Arctic might be ice-free by 2070," he said. "Now they realize it will be ice-free this decade."

In its report last week, the NASA-funded University of California at Irvine study found warmer ocean water was flowing under the edges of the vast West Antarctic ice sheet, destabilizing it. On his visits to Greenland, which began losing ice mass in the 1970s, Wanless said he could see fractures not just around the sheet's edges, but miles inland.

It looked, he said, like "a meandering river valley for 50 miles because the warm water had gotten in."

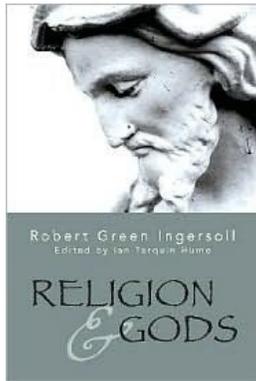
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The Humanist Press



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.](#)



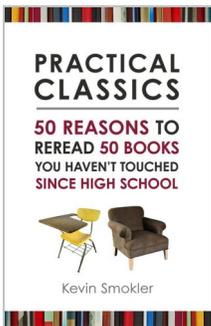
Amid the 21st century's escalating religious tensions, Robert Green Ingersoll's views on the substance of religion and gods offer a firm foundation of logic and independent thought leading to a life examined and a life of happiness free of the shackles of religion. **Prometheus** Pins buttons, stickers,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

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!

Prometheus Press



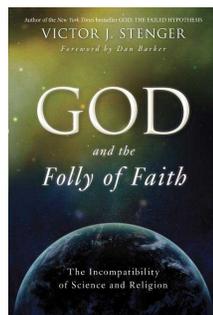
Practical Classics: 50 Reasons to Reread 50 Books You Haven't Touched Since High School.

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God and the Folly of Faith: The Incompatibility of Science and Religion By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.

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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
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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!

June 16th: "Medicare for All?"

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.

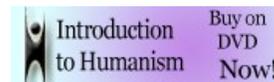
There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly Humanist Way of life.

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/).

Real Life Humanist

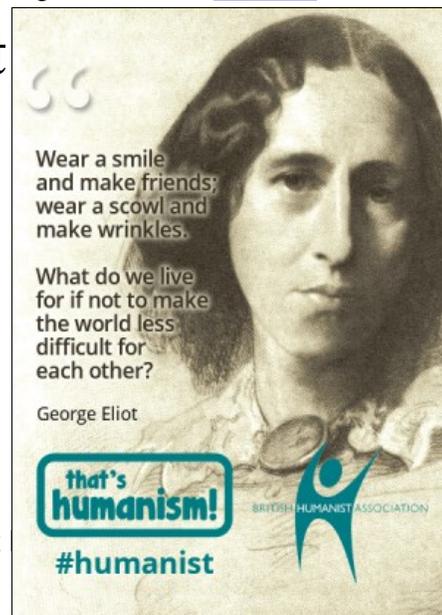
I love to read and I love to watch movies and I love to play video games. I love living vicariously through other people. These virtual experiences with life are a safe way to consider and think about my own humanity.

I don't have to risk death to consider what my death might mean to others. Every book, movie and game teaches me a little bit more about what it means to be human and who I might aspire to be. Who is my model hero? How might I live by those ideals in my life, given that gigantic monster ala Godzilla (which by the way - the recent version - excellent).

These might seem like silly questions, but it is how we find ourselves when we are young and trying to figure out who we are. My son is 8. He's into Minecraft at the moment. He asked me what it would be like if Minecraft is real. This is a deeply philosophic question when you think about it and I love that he asked it.

So I did what any good mom would do - I searched YouTube to see if anyone else had addressed this topic. And it turns out that a young man has. And he has made one of the best videos about Humanism I've seen in a long time. Of course, he didn't use the word. But my son watching this video, by the end was agreeing - yes - this is how we should be living our lives!

So here is the video: Is Real Life the Same as Minecraft? The answer may surprise you - http://youtu.be/fportLXE_EU



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

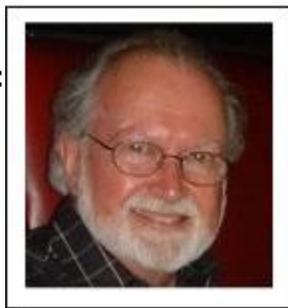
MSgt, USAF (Retired) Co-Organizer:
MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists
(MASH) MacDill AFB, FL

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
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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*.



June 5th thru the 8th...

The National Humanist Conference

In his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Barney Frank has been a leader in the fight against discrimination. His Congressional legacy is one of civil rights and financial reform. In 1987, he became the first member of Congress to voluntarily come out as gay, and in 2012 he became the first congressman in a same-sex marriage while in office. Almost a year ago, he also publicly acknowledged his atheism.

"Barney Frank is a trailblazer, for the LGBTQ community as well as for atheists and other nontheists," said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association. "His commitment to supporting progressive, humanist values of equality and justice demonstrate that one can be good without a god, as are millions in this country."

Other individuals accepting awards at the conference are Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Natalie Angier (Humanist Media Award), lead vocalist and songwriter for the band Bad Religion Greg Graffin (Humanist Arts Award), founder of Wireless Xcessories Group Steve Rade (Humanist Business Award), retired executive director of the National Center for Science Education, Inc., Dr. Eugenie Scott (Lifetime Achievement Award), and feminist activist, speaker and writer Jessica Valenti (Humanist Heroine Award). MIT physics professor, Max Tegmark, will be featured as the keynote speaker. For more info: <http://conference.americanhumanist.org/>



[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.

[Minnesota Public School Told to End Field Trips to Christian Church](#)

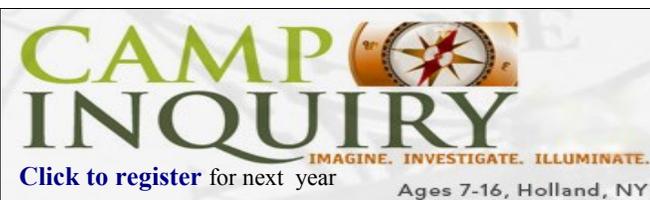
February 3, 2014 – The AHLC has warned school administrators in Golden Valley, MN to stop sending students on field trips to a nearby Christian church to create "manna" packages" for a Christian group.

Find out more about end of life issues.

Everyone has to face this final question. But there are choices not provided by conventional institutions. For more information see:

<http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm> or

www.compassionandchoices.org

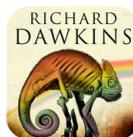


Click to register for next year

Ages 7-16, Holland, NY

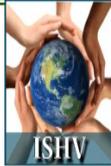


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Organized Unbelief, Social Justice and Branding

By *Norm R. Allen Jr.*

Today many non-theists maintain that too few leaders and organizations among unbelievers are involved in social justice. They maintain that non-theists give too much attention to church/state separation, defense of evolution, religious criticism, etc.

However, many of these critics seem to go too far in the other direction. Rather than working to see to it that social justice becomes a major component of their activities, these critics actually make unbelief a minor consideration in their social justice work.

Now would be a good time to go over some important definitions in no particular order:

- Secular humanism: a system of doctrines or practices that disregards or rejects any form of religious faith and worship.
- Secularism: the belief that religion and ecclesiastical affairs should not enter into the functions of the state, especially into public education.
- Skepticism: doubt about fundamental religious doctrines [or paranormal claims]
- Atheism: without a belief in God or gods.
- Freethought: the formation of opinions about religion, politics, morals, etc., independently of tradition, authority, or established belief.
- Rationalism: the principle or practice of accepting reason as the only authority in determining one's opinions or course of action.

One may agree or disagree with any or all of these definitions. However, the point is that in none of these terms is social justice at the center; and this is as it should be. Yet for some non-theists, social justice has come to be practically synonymous with humanism, secular humanism, skepticism, etc.



Norm Allen Jr.

Some humanists are extreme in this regard. For example, Barry Seidman, a long-time humanist from New Jersey, defines humanism as a "non-hierarchical" system. In other words, Seidman is an anarcho-socialist or libertarian socialist. In his estimation, a true humanist must embrace libertarian socialism or some other supposedly non-hierarchical system. The Black Atheists of Atlanta equate atheism with Afrocentrism and reactionary African nationalism. They have maintained that any organization with the word "Black" in the title must necessarily be closed to non-Blacks, especially Whites. After all is said and done, the Black Atheists of Atlanta are simply Afrocentrists that might happen to be atheists. Indeed, they rarely even *discuss* atheism.

However, other non-theists are not so narrow and dogmatic with their definitions. They simply go about promoting social justice in the name of skepticism, atheism, humanism, freethought, etc. That is to say, the emphasis is on social justice, and not unbelief, though one could not tell this from the organizations' names.

This causes a great deal of confusion, anger and resentment. However, it does not have to be that way. The burning question is: Why do these non-theists that are almost exclusively concerned with social justice not simply form secular social justice organizations, or join secular social justice organizations that already exist? This way, they would be attracting and working with the best social justice advocates from among the non-religious *and* the religious.

Some of today's social justice advocates seem to be trying to coerce or hijack the non-theist movement by falsely equating non-theism with social justice. However, these terms are simply not one and the same.

It would certainly improve matters if those that are first and foremost concerned with social justice would see to it that their goal is reflected in their groups' names and prominently displayed mission statements. Names such as the Radical Humanist Group, Humanists for Social Justice, etc. would let non-theists know what they are getting into. The Atheism Plus movement is a good example of this. To equate social justice with non-theism, however, seems disingenuous, and it is certainly misleading.

The late Gordon Stein edited a journal called *The American Rationalist* (now published by the Council for Secular Humanism.) Stein was of the opinion that the numbers of organized humanists were so small that it was best to focus only on rationalism and to avoid subjects that might divide non-theists. Many non-theists share this view.

Today it is hard to get the various non-theist groups to agree to support a single social justice issue. It seems that one answer to that is to first focus on trying to get more non-theists to come out of the closet. Until non-theists constitute a critical mass, any kind of meaningful large-scale activism will continue to be a dream.



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.



Rick O'Keefe

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/

Secular Coalition of America's New Global Secular Council to Promote Evidence-Based Resources for Legislators

For years religiously-based think tanks like the Discovery Institute and the Family Research Council have been growing stronger and gaining more influence. Across the country private and charter schools teaching creationism are receiving millions of taxpayer dollars every year to indoctrinate children with religious dogma thinly disguised as science.

In the past year there were at least a dozen attempts to insert creationism or "Intelligent Design" into public schools in various states, led by the Discovery Council. This "junk science" strongly impacts the education our children receive, and encourages politicians to introduce and vote for absurd legislation.

To make matters worse, prayer and religiously-based educational activities are creeping back into public schools. Women are being denied reproductive services based on religion. Those who want to halt equal rights for LGBT people are introducing a slew of legislation each day under the guise of "religious liberty." And attempts to install Judeo-Christian symbology on government property continues ceaselessly.

We know that to combat entrenched religious co-mingling between religion and our government, we have to be smart, specific, and knowledgeable about all of the negative issues we are confronted with daily. That's why we're proud to introduce the Global Secular Council (GSC)--a resource group dedicated to promoting evidence-based research and resources on secularism and related issues.

This week we launched the Global Secular Council website featuring topical articles, researched polling data, videos and webinars, resources and links to all major social media sites, and a blog in which the experts will share their ideas on related subjects.

This project is possible due to a generous grant of \$150,000 from the Bella & Stella Foundation. However, these are matching funds -- the donor has issued a challenge to the secular community to help jump start this critical project.



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Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

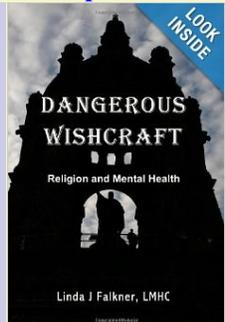
Dave 'Doc' Dockery President,

Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org

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By local Humanistic Counselor,
Linda Faulkner



Calendar of Upcoming main events:

June 25: 12 **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](#):

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

June is National Gay Pride Month

- 1st Dare Day
- 5th World Environment Day
- 10th Iced Tea Day
- 15th Fathers Day
- 18th International Panic Day
- 26th Forgiveness Day
- 30th Meteor Day



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.