

# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News

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Vol. 4 No. 8 August 2015 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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& Bill Norsworthy



**HUMANIST CHARITIES**

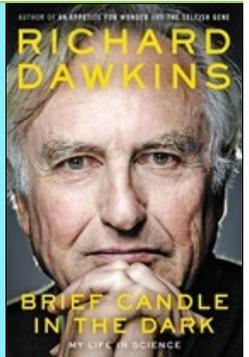
[Click to connect!](#)

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

## Richard Dawkins

Author of *A Brief Candle in the Dark*

Emceed by Dr. **Herb Silverman**



Richard Dawkins, voted *Prospect* magazine's #1 World Thinker, has previously published 11 books, all still in print, including *The Selfish Gene*, the blockbuster bestseller *The God Delusion*, and his magnum opus *The Ancestor's Tale*.

Dawkins is a fellow of both the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Literature. He was the inaugural holder of the Simonyi Chair for the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University and is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards, including the International Cosmos Prize of Japan.

Reviewers have awarded *Brief Candle in the Dark* one of the highest accolades:

Don't miss this opportunity to meet one of the greatest minds of our time.



### Dr. Debi Cassill,



renowned expert on insect behavior, has been named one of the principal speakers at TB-CoR's annual **Darwin Day** in February of 2016. More details and speakers will be announced soon.

## Dr. Dawkins is coming to Clearwater - October 10th!

**Tickets to the event are selling out fast!**

Attendees will receive a copy of *Brief Candle in the Dark* autographed by the author at this unique October 10th event at the Clearwater UU Octagon. Details are at [www.evolutetampa.com](http://www.evolutetampa.com).

Admission to the Saturday, 3 PM event has been set at \$40.00. This includes an autographed copy of the book. All tickets are on sale 24/7 at:

**Brown Paper Tickets.** Or (800) 838-3006 . Be sure to check the Early Bird Specials until Aug. 15th. Your ticket will admit you to the event and get you a copy of the book .

There will be a special 1:30 PM Dawkins Foundation **reception** at a cost of \$250.



This includes the main event and book, for those who wish to meet personally with the author.

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

**No book other than the hardcover edition provided through the event will be autographed.**

More on page **2**

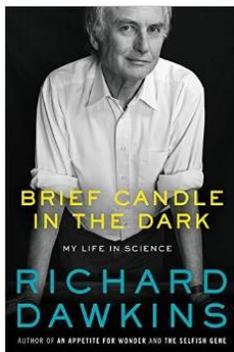
## “THIS IS MY VISION OF “LIFE”

By Richard Dawkins

Natural selection is about the differential survival of coded information which has power to influence its probability of being replicated, which pretty much means genes. Coded information, which has the power to make copies of itself—“replicator”—whenever that comes into existence in the universe, it potentially could be the basis for some kind of Darwinian selection. And when that happens, you then have the opportunity for this extraordinary phenomenon which we call “life”.

My conjecture is that if there is life elsewhere in the universe, it will be Darwinian life. I think there’s only one way for this hyper complex phenomenon which we call “life” to arise from the laws of physics. The laws of physics—if you throw a stone up in the air, it describes a parabola, and that’s it. But biology, without ever violating the laws of physics, does the most extraordinary things; it produces machines which can run, and walk, and fly, and dig, and swing through the trees, and think, and produce the whole of human technology, human art, human music. This all comes about because at some point in history, about 4 billion years ago, a replicating entity arose, not a gene as we would now see it, but something functionally equivalent to a gene, which because it had the power to replicate and the power to influence its own probability of replicating, and replicated with slight errors, gave rise to the whole of life.

If you ask me what my ambition would be, it would be that everybody would understand what an extraordinary, remarkable thing it is that they exist, in a world which would otherwise just be plain physics. The key to the process is self-replication. The key to the process is that ... let’s call them “genes” because nowadays they pretty much all are genes. Genes have different probabilities of surviving. The ones that survive, because they have such high fidelity replication, are the ones which we see in the world, the ones which dominate gene pools in the world. So for me, the replicator, the gene, DNA, is absolutely key to the whole process of Darwinian natural selection. So when you ask the question, what about group selection, what about higher levels of selection, what about different levels of selection, everything comes down to gene selection. Gene selection is fundamentally what is really going on.



## How you can end racism

What can those who identify as humanists, or even those who simply consider themselves decent people do to combat systemic racism? Make a concerted effort to humanize and identify with *all* individuals.

It’s easy to assent to this principle in word, but it’s quite another to be continuously mindful of it and endeavor to extend egalitarianism without constraint. None of this requires a belief in a god, of course, but it does entail dedication to values central to the humanist cause. Impartiality is actually a challenge when one considers the current, severely biased state of affairs. That said, it’s a goal that is certainly achievable.

If you’re carrying guilt for being privileged, quit wasting your time. Devote your mental energy towards something worthwhile, like transmitting heightened awareness within your sphere of influence (however marginal) and seeking to destabilize the inequitable power structure that allows and excuses the bias and cruelty involved with cases that seem to occur every week. Focus less on your guilt and more on being a catalyst for change.

AHA



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

**Tampa Bay CoR**  
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

## Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area: Tampa Humanist Association, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Center for Inquiry, UU Humanists Clearwater, Atheists of Florida, UU Humanists Tampa,\* Secular Student Alliance USF,\* Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought principles (\*= not currently members of the Coalition)

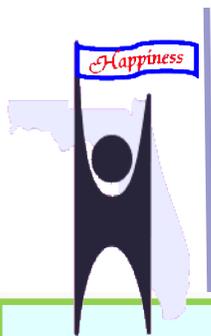
Thus substantive and exciting new activities are offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

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

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

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments . JP Contact: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

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



# The Humanist Society<sup>3</sup> of the Suncoast News

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

Volume 23 No. 8 August, 2015

NB: Because of construction at the Countryside Library, we will meet instead at the **Dunedin Public Library** 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL ([map](#))



## Dr. Dani McVety

Our speaker frequently writes and speaks for professional and lay audiences on end-of-life veterinary topics in hopes of empowering both parties to seek the highest standards of care. Dr. McVety and Lap of Love have been featured on numerous local, national, and professional media outlets including CNN, The New York Times, ABC, Fox 13, University of Florida Alumni Magazine, and many more. She proudly graduated from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and is the youngest recipient of the college's Distinguished Young Alumni Award (2013) in addition to the Florida Veterinary Medical Association's President's Award (2014).

Since the care of our companion animals is also an index of the quality of care we have for ourselves and our fellow humans, this discussion outlines important ethical and moral parameters that should govern the treatment of ourselves in similar situations.

JP

## ~ Join or Renew ~

Your Humanist Society of the Suncoast  
**Annual Dues.**

- Trial -3 month- free news
- Regular -\$25**
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pi )**
- Life -\$200.
- Life Couple -\$250.
- Associate -\$10



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

If you have questions concerning your dues or status, contact our treasurer, [marios\\_psomas@hotmail.com](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com)

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address -if new : \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \* \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Privacy respected)

Send tax deductible (501c3) dues to:

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

\*= optional



Got a letter, comment, suggestion or editorial contribution? Write to us at:  
[tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)



**Food: the first kindness and the measure of our Hospitality**  
Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. As reactionaries in congress vote to cut the budget for food stamps and other key supports, there is increasing hunger here in our community. Thanks to **Glenn Paul**, chair.

Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance **We need volunteers!** See a board member. Or write to [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com) Thanx.

Please join us at  
**2 PM August 1st**  
at

**The Dunedin Public Library at 223 Douglas Ave. in Dunedin.**

**Many members can go to dinner afterwards at Marguerites Cafe. Directly across from the Library.**

**Some alcohol avail.**



*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  
For August, is at ...

# Kumba Island

1800 Gulf-To-Bay Blvd Clearwater  
(N.E. Corner of G-T-B & Keene)

We're changing our approach. Now its just open. No RSVP required. Trundle on down for the fine food and fastidiously fabulous fellowship!

Be there on Sunday August 16th by **5 O'clock** for Early bird specials. As always, this is a self treated dinner. Ask to be seated with "the humanists." DK

## Laugh Lines New Definitions 8-15

- Acre** *n.* Someone that aches  
**Afterdraft** *n.* Life following conscription  
**Atomize** *v.* To transform from a male cat to a female.  
**Carnation** *n.* Country where each citizen owns an automobile  
**Childhood** *n.* Cowl for an infant.  
**Colander** *n.* Someone who arrives with you on the same plane.  
**Coroner** *n.* A round corner  
**Coworker** *n.* One who orks cows  
**Cytology** *n.* The study of real estate.  
**Diode** *n.* A pair of two long poems.  
**Emotion** *n.* Electron movement (also e-motion).  
**Evening** *n.* The first Chinese woman God created.  
**Exercise** *n.* Her former body measurements.  
**Immediate** *v.* To refrain from mediating.  
**Liquor** *n.* How a male animal cleans his mate.  
**Manometer** *n.* An instrument for detecting disguised males in a group of females.  
**Maritime** *n.* Hour of a wedding.  
**Nitrate** *n.* The price after sundown.  
**Season** *n.* Male offspring of Poseidon.  
**Syntax** *n.* Tariff on immorality.  
**Tautology** *n.* A riveting, gripping study.

JP

## 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

**Jay Alexander,**  
**Steve Brown,**  
**Lois Fries, Secretary**  
**Dave Kovar, Vice President**  
**Beth Maxie,**  
**Jim Peterson, President**  
**Frank Prah,**  
**Marios Psomas, treasurer**  
**Jordan Williams.**

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 Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn Paul, Don  
 Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie  
 Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,  
 Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

**Jim Peterson, Editor**  
 E-Mail us at:  
[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

## Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,  
click:

[Cognitive Neurosciences  
Inc.](#) or,

[The Therapist Project,](#)  
or,

[Lynda Gurvitz,](#)  
(727) 725-8820

or [Patricia Walters,](#)  
(813) 988-5977

Also, For Addiction  
Problems, see: [Life Ring  
Secular Recovery Meetings](#)  
11485 Oakhurst Road  
Waters Edge Club House  
Largo, Florida



## Tampa Humanist Association



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

**Meets August 15th**

Our next summer roundtable discussion will consider:

### Why do Humans Rule?

Seventy thousand years ago, our human ancestors were insignificant animals, just minding their own business in a corner of Africa with all the other animals. But now, few would disagree that humans dominate planet Earth; we've spread to every continent, and our actions determine the fate of other animals (and possibly Earth itself). How did we get from there to here? Historian **Yuval Noah Harari** suggests a surprising reason for the rise of humanity. A video Presentation with discussion to follow.

A lecturer in history at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in his book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, **Yuval Noah Harari** asks what made homo sapiens the most successful species on the planet. His answer: We are the only animal that can believe in things that exist purely in our imagination, such as gods, states, money, human rights, corporations and other “fictions,” and we have developed a unique ability to use these stories to unify and organize groups and ensure cooperation. In his next book, he'll explore the growth of inequality in human society. He asks, are we on the cusp of the next great divergence?

Harari specializes in world history, medieval history and military history. His current research focuses on macro-historical questions: What is the relation between history and biology? What is the essential difference between Homo sapiens and other animals? Is there justice in history? Does history have a direction? Did people become happier as history unfolded? Harari also teaches a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) titled [A Brief History of Humankind](#).



### Join the Tampa Humanist Association!

Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!  
Tampa CFI is offering these great license plate surrounds  
Fits all US plates - easy to install  
Now only \$15. Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)



## Another Humanist Discussion group forms in east Tampa

5

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa  
11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637  
More information can be found at :

<http://uutampa.org/unitarian-universalist-humanist-of-tampa/>

### HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

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

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

**Gale Barron**

[gfbshb@aol.com](mailto:gfbshb@aol.com)

## Secular Services Directory

*Serving the Secular Community with Rational Competence*

if you offer or need professional services in any area of life, check out this opportunity. The directory for services will be out soon.



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

**AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR HUMANISM**

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

LANGSTON HUGHES  
Writer and Activist

ALIX JULES  
Dallas - Ft. Worth Coalition of Reason

## Humanist Quotes

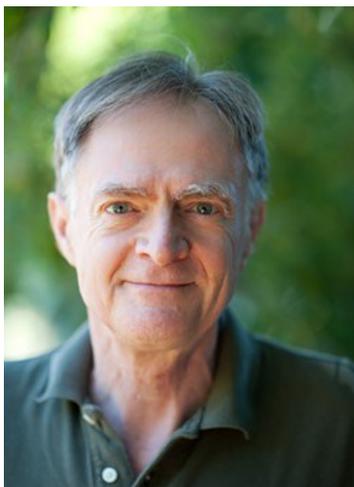
*“ We distrust anything that contradicts science or outrages reason. We may differ on many things, but what we respect is free inquiry, open-mindedness, and the pursuit of ideas for their own sake. .”*

*Christopher Hitchens* 8-15



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

## Who is Richard Heinberg?



Barefoot and in a bright green T-shirt, Richard Heinberg kicks back in his Santa Rosa living room and outlines his views on the local, the global and the future of civilization. A charismatic public speaker and the author of a dozen books including *Afterburn*, his latest, Heinberg and his wife, Janet Barocco, raise chickens, grow vegetables and cultivate backyard fruit and nut trees that nourish them all year long.

"I'm a cheerleader for local and all in favor of local solutions to economic problems," he says. "We need to reverse the trend toward the global civilization that creates instability and imbalance, and that wrecks havoc with communities everywhere."

Heinberg offers suggestions for local consumers: take your money out of big banks and deposit it in credit unions; buy at food co-ops; vote with pocketbooks; and push for local power apart from PG&E.

He also urges political activism. "Citizens should tell their representatives to reject the Trans-Pacific Partnership [TPP] that was negotiated in secret and that's meant to increase the volume of international trade at the expense of local businesses and local economies," he says. "One provision of the TPP says that if municipal governments promote local over imported, the importers can sue for lost profits."

Born in Missouri in 1950, Heinberg didn't tune into localism until 1992, when he settled in Sonoma County and began to track the dangers of globalization. From 1998 to 2008, he taught localism at the New College of California in Santa Rosa. In 2009, he joined the Post Carbon Institute, where he's now the senior fellow-in-residence.

Heinberg points out the limits to localism. "If your goal is to be 100 percent local, then you won't consume very much at all," he says. "The point, however, ought not to be 100 percent local. Trade from distant places will always be necessary. But we ought to return to some kind of balance."

In *Afterburn*, Heinberg offers gloomy thoughts on Santa Rosa, Sonoma County and California generally. They've all "bet their futures, mostly on cars, trucks, airplanes, highways and runways—and therefore, in effect, on oil," he writes. "It appears to be a losing bet."

Heinberg hopes to see a dismantling of the power of corporations to maximize profits at the expense of society as a whole. "Our civilization is well in decline," he says. "The process will accelerate, though we can slow it by moving away from corporations and toward co-ops that operate locally and that offer high-quality products to consumers."

Despite gloomy thoughts and a host of even gloomier book titles to his name—*The Party's Over*, *Powerdown* and *The End of Growth*—Heinberg enjoys a good party, a good laugh, a good meal and the good life itself. And he's positively upbeat in a chapter called "All Roads Lead Local." © 2015 Resilience.org

Richard Heinberg is a senior fellow at the Post Carbon Institute and the author of twelve books, including his most recent: *Afterburn: Society Beyond Fossil Fuels*. Previous books include: *Snake Oil: How Fracking's False Promise of Plenty Imperils Our Future*; *The Party's Over: Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies*; *Peak Everything: Waking Up to the Century of Declines*; and *The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality*.

## *Rising Impacts on Human Health from Climate*

The threat from climate change to human health is so great that it could undermine the previous 50 years of gains in development and global health, experts warned recently.

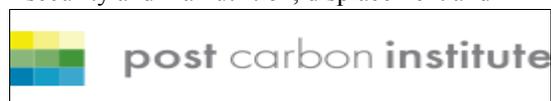
Extreme weather events such as floods and heat waves bring rising risks of infectious diseases, poor nutrition and stress, the specialists said, while polluted cities where people work long hours and have no time or space to walk, cycle or relax are bad for the heart as well as respiratory and mental health.

Almost 200 countries have set a 2 degrees C global average temperature rise above pre-industrial times as a ceiling to limit climate change, but scientists say the current trajectory could lead to around a 4 degrees C rise in average temperatures, risking droughts, floods, storms and rising sea levels.

"That scenario has very serious and potentially catastrophic effects for biosphere health and even imperils human survival," said Anthony Costello, director of University College London's (UCL) Institute for Global Health, who co-led the report.

"We see climate change as a major health issue, and that's often neglected in policy debates," he told reporters at a briefing in London. The report, commissioned and published by The Lancet medical journal, was compiled by a panel of specialists including European and Chinese climate scientists and geographers, social, environmental and energy scientists, biodiversity experts and health professionals. It said that because responses to mitigate climate change have direct and indirect health benefits - from reducing air pollution to improving diet - a concerted effort would also provide a great opportunity to improve global health.

The report said direct health impacts of climate change come from more frequent and intense extreme weather events, while indirect impacts come from changes in infectious disease patterns, air pollution, food insecurity and malnutrition, displacement and conflicts.



## 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.

Were on hiatus for August.

In Sept, our speaker will be **Rob Lorei**, news director at WMNF. He'll be talking about anything he damn well pleases, with the certain guarantee that it will interest us.

The meeting will be on the 3rd Sunday September 20th at 12:30. After Q and A, we'll adjourn to Carrabba's for lunch.



## Florida NOW

<http://www.fnow.org/>

NOW is a multi-issue political organization. NOW's self-defined role has been to initiate change for the benefit of the greatest number of people, to affect the legal and institutional structures of the society in a way that systematically expands the choices and possibilities available to all women. In this way, NOW takes action to bring women, as a class, into the mainstream of society, rather than offering aid to individual women in achieving personal solutions or temporary relief from oppression.

The Florida National Organization for Women is a group dedicated to taking action to bring ALL women into full equality and participation through changing policy, law and culture. This mission attracts women and men of diverse backgrounds and gives us the ability to look at the systemic oppression in our lives and determine actions that will bring about change for all women.

Often, we are contacted by women and men who are facing "legal" situations, or in need of help for a group or individual. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide direct services, and for legal reasons we can not provide referrals for lawyers or other services. If you need these services, please consider doing an internet search for local attorneys, referral services, legal aide, domestic violence shelters, or other terms that are appropriate for your individual situation. Good luck.

NOW is fighting for equality in jobs, pay, credit, insurance, pensions, fringe benefits, and Social Security, through legislation, negotiation, labor organizing, education, and litigation. We are helping women break through the "glass ceiling" of the executive suite, and break loose of the "sticky floor" — the dead-end, low wage jobs that keep so many women in poverty. NOW is actively opposed to punitive welfare reform that harms the most vulnerable women and children in our society.

## FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Two officers at a Palm Beach juvenile facility are currently facing **criminal charges for arranging a fight between two youth for the officers' entertainment.** In a separate incident, another teen was recently assaulted so badly that he was hospitalized for injuries including a broken jaw.

Florida's Palm Beach Juvenile Facility currently houses more than 100 minors. Rather than incarcerating so many young people in large, prison-like facilities, our state should invest in the future of our children. The Dept. of Juvenile Justice should place young people in community-based programs and small therapeutic settings which have proven to be more effective in rehabilitation, reducing crime, helping young people turn their lives around, and promoting public safety. [Tell DJJ to protect our children and close this troubled facility now!](#) 8-15

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF JOIN THE ACLU



## The Humanities Institute at USF

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



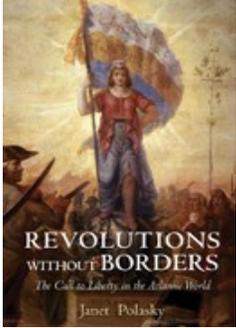
**Challenge, Create, Connect:** Our new motto focuses our commitment to bring the beauty, values, and lessons of the humanities to USF and our community.

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

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

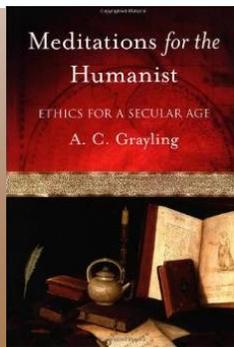
As part of our mission to encourage important research in the humanities, the Institute provides summer grants for humanities-focused research projects. Following the National Endowment for the Humanities, we foster a broad and inclusive definition of humanities, to include the contributions of scholars in language, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, religion, ethics, arts, and humanistic social sciences. 7-15

## Meaningful Books

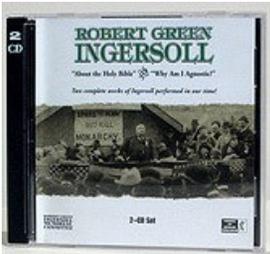


Revolutionaries want to tear down walls. Between 1776, when America declared independence, and 1804, when Haiti at last threw off the yoke of French rule, the compartments and divisions of established power became everyone's target. This book assiduously describes how, just as the doctrine of the universal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

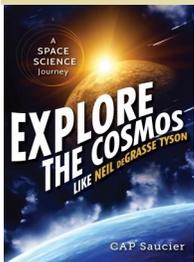
Magnanimity is in short supply," writes A. C. Grayling is this wonderfully incisive book, "but it is the main ingredient in everything that makes the world a better place" And indeed *Meditations for the Humanist: Ethics for a Secular Age* is itself a generous, insightful, wide-ranging, magnanimous inquiry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



**Ingersoll on CD:** 2-CD set includes "About the Holy Bible" (1894) and "Why Am I an Agnostic?" (1889). The complete texts, without one word omitted ... performed with an oratorical flourish that does justice to Ingersoll's mighty words. Plus an introduction that places Ingersoll and freethought into the context of America's Gilded Age. Two complete works of Ingersoll performed in our time! 2-CD Set, \$12. [Click here to order](#)



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



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

## Bank of Wisdom

*Electronic publishing to make the world better*

Make digital withdrawals from the bank, free! See Humanist Society Librarian, Marios Psomas for details.

**Evolve Fish is a good source for your freethought goodies:**

Pins, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc

<http://evolvefish.com/>

## The Matt Cooper

### Memorial Humanist Lending Library

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

#### # TITLE

#### AUTHOR

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. The Expanding Circle                          | Peter Singer                    |
| 2. In Gods we Trust                              | Scott Atran                     |
| 3. Why Evolution is True                         | Jerry Coyne                     |
| 4. The Second World                              | Panag Khanna                    |
| 5. Denialism                                     | Michael Specter                 |
| 6. The Selfish Gene                              | Richard Dawkins                 |
| 7. Democracy Incorporated                        | Sheldon Wolin                   |
| 8. The Upside Irrationality                      | Dan Ariely                      |
| 9. The End of Growth                             | Richard Heinberg                |
| 10. The God Delusion                             | Richard Dawkins                 |
| 11. All That We Share                            | Jay Wallgasper                  |
| 12. Sex, Time, and Power                         | Leonard Shlain                  |
| 13. Sex at Dawn                                  | C. Ryan, & C. Jetha             |
| 14. What liberal Media                           | Eric Alderman                   |
| 15. The End of Faith                             | Sam Harris                      |
| 16. Plan B                                       | Lester Brown                    |
| 17. The Portable Atheist                         | Christopher Hitchens            |
| 18. Open Society                                 | George Soros                    |
| 19. Non Believer Nation                          | David Niose                     |
| 20. God on Trial                                 | Peter Irons                     |
| 21. Natural Experiments of History               | Diamond-Robinson                |
| 22. The Missionary Position                      | Christopher Hitchens            |
| 23. Life Inc                                     | Douglas Rushkoff                |
| 24. A brief History of Time                      | Stephen Hawkins                 |
| 25. Breaking the Spell                           | Daniel Dennett                  |
| 26. The Philosophy of Humanism                   | Corliss Lamont                  |
| 27. The Quotable Atheist                         | Jack Huberman                   |
| 28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In God. | G. Harrison                     |
| 29. Mathematics and Politics                     | Alan Taylor                     |
| 30. Stealing Elections                           | John Fund                       |
| 31. The God Virus                                | Darrel Ray                      |
| 32. What Every American Should Know About World  | Rossi                           |
| 33. Imagine There's no Heaven                    | Editors of Free Inquiry         |
| 34. Hidden Order                                 | David Friedman                  |
| 35. What the Dog Saw                             | Malcom Gladwell                 |
| 36. Sway   | Ori, Rom Brafman                |
| 37. The Better Angels of our Nature              | Steven Pinker                   |
| 38. Letter to a Young Contrarian                 | Christopher Hitchens            |
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| 41. Subversion Fable                             | Alexa KcKearing                 |
| 43. Evolution and the Big Question               | David Stamos                    |
| 44. Why People Believe Weird Things              | Michael Shermer                 |
| 45. The World is Curved                          | David Snick                     |
| 46. The Snow Ball                                | Warren Buffett                  |
| 47. The Moral Landscape                          | Sam Harris                      |
| 48. How We Believe                               | Michael Shermer                 |
| 49. Full House                                   | Steven Jay Gould                |
| 50. The Origins of Political Order               | Francis Fukuyama                |
| 51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible                  | Isaac Asimov                    |
| 52. Autobiography of Mark Twain                  | Harriet Smith, Editor           |
| 53. Science Friction                             | Michael Shermer                 |
| 54. Genius                                       | James Gleick                    |
| 55. Inevitable Illusions                         | Piatrelli & Palmarini           |
| 56. Sex & God                                    | Darryl Ray                      |
| 57. Being Right Is Not Enough                    | Paul Waldman                    |
| 58. Loser Takes All                              | Mark Crispin Miller             |
| 59. Taking Back Politics                         | Cathy Allen                     |
| 60. What Happened in Ohio?                       | Fitrikis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman |
| 61. Autobiography of Mark Twain                  | Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith        |
| 62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible                 |                                 |
| 63. Database Systems (Complete Ver.)             | Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis       |
| 64. Reluctant Database Administrators            | Josef Finsel                    |
| 65. Asimov's Guide to the Bible                  | Isaac Asimov                    |
| 66. Inevitable Illusions                         | M. Piattelli-Palmarini          |
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| 71. Financial Shenanigans                        | Howard Shilit                   |
| 72. Sex & God                                    | Darrel Ray, ED.D                |
| 73. Best American Non required Reading           | Dave Eagers                     |
| 74. Reporting at Wit's End                       | St. Clair McKelway              |
| 75. Corporations are not People                  | Clements                        |
| 76. Could I Vote Mormon for president?           | Cragun - Phillips               |
| 77. Culture of Honor                             | Nisbett - Cohen                 |
| 78. Rot on the Vine                              | Stenesh                         |
| 79. <b>Thoughts of a Freethinker</b> <b>New!</b> | Kaye                            |

# Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter Sunday, August 9th See the [AoF Meetup](#) for details.

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus. For many people, atheism represents the most focused and powerful criticism of the philosophical worldview with which most of us were raised. It is liberating for the same reason it attracts the enmity of those who are committed to the closed and changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP

## Is Human creativity Less evident in Atheists, especially scientists?

It is a wonderfully prominent and important aspect of our natures. To arbitrarily assign creativity just to artists and not to scientists is odd. Scientists (who tend in general not to be overly religious, especially the elite ones) are creative in their ability to synthesize new postulates and theories from existing information. In addition, the creativity of scientists allows them to discover ways to increase the quality of life (often extending it via medical science) so we can all, including very gifted and talented artists, to be in the position to create and have the opportunity for long, fulfilling lives.

In the last one hundred years there have been many famous non-religious artists: H. G. Wells, Mark Twain, John Lennon, Gene Roddenberry, George Bernard Shaw, Arthur Rubenstein, Kurt Vonnegut, James Joyce, and H.L. Mencken for starters. And we can be sure to look forward to more in the coming decades.

Atheists can be creative and smart just like religious people. There really is no mystery regarding this reality. Richard Feynman was a Nobel physicist, a visual artist, and a musician (not to mention a thrilling, in-demand university professor).

Artistic people are sometimes known to drink alcohol to excess and take drugs. The endorphins which are released may be connected to their creative bursts. Perhaps religious beliefs also act in a drug-like manner, triggering the release of creativity-enhancing endorphins? (Was that mental musing a bit too creative?)  
Received without attribution

**St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group**  
Moderated by: Gary Thompson  
Monthly Meetup Day: Third Tuesday at 7 PM  
Contact: [easy8@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:easy8@tampabay.rr.com)  
On the web: <http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

Save the date...



[Holiday Inn Orlando-International- Airport, 5750 T.G. Lee Blvd, Orlando, FL \(map\)](#)

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

- Dan Barker**, Keynote Address, Author of "Life Driven Purpose", Co-President, Freedom From Religion Foundation
- Dr. Anthony Pinn**, Author, Professor, Director of the Institute for Humanist Studies
- David Tamayo**, President, Hispanic American Freethinkers - HAFree
- Sarah Morehead**, Executive Director, Recovering from Religion, President, Reason Rally Coalition
- Stewart Huff**, Comedian
- Matt Dillahunt**, Host, "The Atheist Experience"
- Seth Andrews**, Author of "Sacred Cows," Host, The Thinking Atheist Podcast
- Katherine Stewart**, Journalist, Author of "The Good News Club"
- Dr. Bo Bennett**, Co-Host, The Humanist Hour podcast
- Dave Chuvris**, Program Manager, The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science
- Dr. Ryan Cragun**, Professor, Researcher, Author of "How to Defeat Religion In 10 Easy Steps"
- Andrew Seidel**, Constitutional Attorney, Freedom From Religion Foundation
- Sarah Haider**, Director of Development, Ex-Muslims of North America
- Reginald V. Finley**, The Infidel Guy
- Dr. Jason D Heap**, National Coordinator, United Coalition of Reason.



- Hospices** in Hillsborough County: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-hillsborough-county-florida>
- Pinellas: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pinellas-county-florida>
- Pasco: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pasco-county-florida>

## Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008.

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

**August 17th: Topic:**

**Racism in Our Culture**

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

## The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



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

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

**On the web at:** [www.maaf.info](http://www.maaf.info)

Contact: Chris

( [christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:christbrown@yahoo.com) )

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

## Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

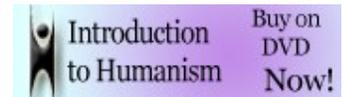
**Jennifer Hancock** started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly Humanist Way of life. Jennifer is author of several books including: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine*.



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

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

Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/humanistfamilies). See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.



## Can Bankers Change?

What does the continued problem with how our biggest banks are run teach us about change management?

The Atlantic published an excellent article about the banking industry – see: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/05/can-bankers-behave/389558/>. The question asked is – can bankers behave? The answer is obviously yes, but the structure of certain banks makes that change very very hard.

The article is ultimately a story about ethical habit formation and how change occurs. What I want to discuss here is the part of the article that focuses on the CEO of Morgan Stanley, James Gorman.

While we can debate the merits of the changes made at Morgan Stanley, what isn't debatable is that Gorman was successful at making the changes he wanted to make.

Why was he successful when so many people struggle to create change within their organizations? His attitude was if you don't like the changes – leave. If you want to work at a hedge fund – do it – our core business is that we are a bank. And people did leave. And that was ok.

The mistake that managers wanting to create change make is in thinking – they have to make people change. The reality is that not everyone will change. Not everyone wants to. It's ok if they don't; they just need to find employment elsewhere if the fit is no longer good for them.

Change is hard. People resist it. That is normal. It's a process that takes place over time and you will have early adopters and once the change is proven to work, mass adoption. And, there will be some holdouts that refuse to change. Sometimes you can drag them along kicking and screaming and they will become your biggest advocates. And sometimes, you just need to let them find employment that is better suited to them.

Accepting that you can't be everything to everyone takes courage. It takes courage to stand by your core mission as an organization. This is especially important if your corporate culture has allowed unethical behavior to propagate. Changing the culture to promote ethical behavior means, some people will have to go. Never allow people who want to be unethical to steer you off course and keep you from creating the positive social change you know is right.

FYI - discuss the change management process in detail and how to use behavioral psychology to help this process along, paying specific attention to resistance to change, which in the behavioral model is considered an extinction burst and it's predicted. Understand why and how that resistance will help you manage it when it occurs.

*Thank you!* **Jennifer Hancock**

**Appignani Humanist Legal Center** provides legal assistance to defend the constitutional rights of religious and secular minorities by directly challenging clear violations of the Establishment Clause and seeking equal rights for humanists, atheists and other freethinkers.

- ◆ ◆ [Georgia School District Settles Football Prayer Lawsuit with Humanist Group](#)  
*July 20, 2015* – Hall County School District agrees to train staff in their duties under the First Amendment in response to AHA lawsuit.
- ◆ ◆ [Humanist Group Stops Mississippi School from Sponsoring Prayer and Distributing Bibles](#) *July 13, 2015* – The American Humanist Association stops a public school from unconstitutionally promoting religion.
- ◆ ◆ [Humanists Proceeding with Lawsuit Against Ocala Police’s Prayer Vigil](#)

11

For all our conceits about being the center of the universe, we live in a routine planet of a humdrum star stuck away in an obscure corner ... on an unexceptional galaxy which is one of about 100 billion galaxies. ... That is the fundamental fact of the universe we inhabit, and it is very good for us to understand that.  
-- Carl Sagan



## This Woman’s Point of View

by *Toni Van Pelt*

### Oppose School Vouchers

The **Institute for Science & Human Values** opposes all private school voucher programs because public funds should be spent on public schools, not private schools. It is the view of ISHV that two major goals drive voucher programs. One, is to simply destroy the public school system in the United States, replacing it with corporate owned and religious schools, displacing tax dollars and forcing taxpayers to support the profits of big business and the income of religious schools thereby favoring those religions, a clear violation of democratic principle. The public school system is an important component of the U.S. democracy. The other is a long term tactic to re-segregate the school population.

Open and nondiscriminatory in their acceptance of all students, American public schools are a unifying factor among the diverse range of ethnic and religious communities in our society. Public schools are the only schools that must meet the needs of all students. They do not turn children or families away. They serve children with physical, emotional and mental disabilities, those who are extremely gifted, and those who are learning challenged, right along with children without special needs.

Vouchers undermine this vital function, however, by placing some of the most motivated students into private schools, leaving the students who are most difficult to educate behind in the public schools. Voucher programs also divert desperately needed resources away from the public school system to fund the education of a few voucher students. The government would better serve our children by using these funds to make the public schools stronger.

Voucher programs fail to offer students better educational resources, greater opportunities for academic achievement, or adequate accountability to taxpayers. For these reasons and more, we urge opposition to all such schemes.

ISHV



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.

If your organization supports our mission statement, please sign up [here](#). Volunteer activists are wanted,



[Freethinkers@USF](#) is a multi-cultural, interdisciplinary student society which welcomes USF students who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, humanists, or religiously open-minded who seek to promote reason, compassion, tolerance, and free inquiry on campus.

We hope to contribute opportunity for interdisciplinary dialog to the USF community, and build scientific literacy for all to enable objective and rational interpretations of issues affecting our lives.

The organization is open to anyone of any religious persuasion or personal beliefs.

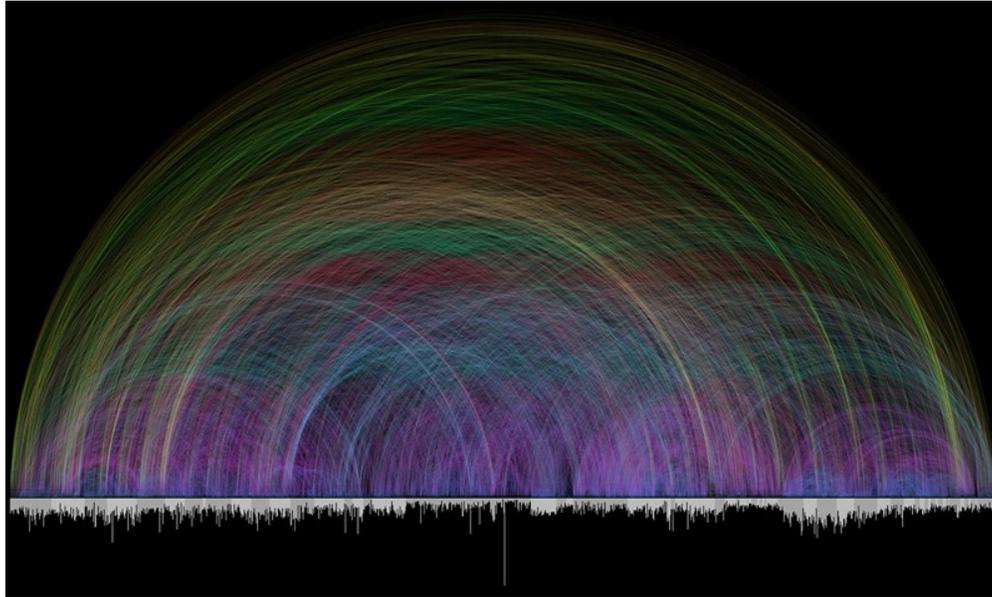
Write **Rodrick Colbert** at:  
[freethinkersusf@gmail.com](mailto:freethinkersusf@gmail.com).



# An Incredible Interactive Chart of Biblical Contradictions

August 19, 2013 by [Hemant Mehta](#) Full article on Patheos: <http://bit.ly/1r1TaSD> Excerpt:

A few years ago, computer science whiz **Chris Harrison** created a [beautiful visualization](#) linking up *every cross reference in the Bible*. So, for example, if a verse in the New Testament referred back to a verse in the Old Testament, there was an arc drawn between the two chapters they were in (the vertical lines at the bottom represent the number of verses in that chapter):



Amazing! Turns out there are 63,779 cross references in the Bible (and that many arcs in the image)! If it's any indication of how complex this image is, the [high-resolution version](#) is more than 100MB large.

In 2009, graphic designer **Andy Marlow** used Harrison's work as his inspiration to created a [similar visual](#) for **Sam Harris'** Reason Project. This time, though, he only included arcs representing [contradictions in the Bible](#).

Now, computer programmer **Daniel G. Taylor** has taken all that data and turned it into a visual masterpiece. His website, [BibViz](#) (Bible Visualization), gives you the same linking arcs as before, but when you hover over one of them, it lights up and tells you in the upper right-hand corner of the screen which verses are being linked together. Click on an arc and it takes you directly to those verses as compiled in the [Skeptics Annotated Bible](#).

... The whole site is seriously an incredible resource. [Go there and just play around with it](#). Then show your fundamentalist religious friends and watch them squirm. There's just no plausible way anyone can take the Bible literally after spending time on this site... unless they're closing their eyes, sticking their fingers in their ears, and refusing to think about any of the errors in their worldview.

The theist who asks the question What is the meaning of life? and insists that without some divine purpose life would be meaningless is not only masking his own insecurity but also displaying an infantile reaction; he has little faith in his own unaided powers of reason and fragile confidence in his ability to solve the problems of life on his own. Insofar as man is dependent upon God for his very being, his life has no significance in itself. This is all the more true if this life is simply a testing ground or waiting room for the afterlife, a way-station to hell or paradise.

-- Paul Kurtz, Forbidden Fruit: The Ethics of Humanism p. 236.



## Tampa Bay Computer Society & Doc's Café

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Dave 'Doc' Dockery, President. Be sure to check out [Doc's Café](#) to discuss serious issues.

Find us at: [www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org) *We repair our member's computers for Free!*



## CENTER FOR INQUIRY

**Tampa Bay**

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



Rick O'Keefe

In aiming to foster a secular society, CFI does 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.

Fostering a secular society requires attention to many specific goals, but three goals in particular represent the focus of our activities:

- 1.1. an end to the influence that religion and pseudoscience have on public policy
- 2.2. an end to the privileged position that religion and pseudoscience continue to enjoy in many societies
- 3.3. an end to the stigma attached to being a nonbeliever, whether the nonbeliever describes her/himself as an atheist, agnostic, humanist, freethinker or skeptic.

### Support [CFI-Tampa Bay](#),

keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, and become a member!

**JOIN NOW**

**BECOME A MEMBER:** Click the *Join Now* button above to join or renew your membership. When you make a donation to CFI-Tampa Bay you become a member of a local and worldwide movement of humanists, skeptics, atheists, and freethinkers, all working together to give voice to your values.

Free inquiry requires that we tolerate diversity of opinion and that we respect the right of individuals to express their beliefs, however unpopular they may be, without social or legal prohibition or fear of success. -- Paul Kurtz

### Links you can use:

- ◆ ◆ June 29, 2015 by Sincere Kirabo, [Being a Black Atheist in So-Called Post-Racial America](#)
- ◆ ◆ [Black Skeptics' First in the Family Humanist Scholarships: Applications Now Available](#)
- ◆ ◆ [Alix Jules and Bridgett "Bria" Crutchfield: Black and Atheist? You are not alone.](#)
- ◆ ◆ [Sikivu Hutchinson: Straight to Hell: Christian Fascism & Americana](#)
- ◆ ◆ [Bridget Gaudette: The Black Atheist Experience](#)
- ◆ ◆ [Find local AfAm Freethinkers' groups](#)

I WOULD RATHER HAVE QUESTIONS THAT CAN'T BE ANSWERED THAN ANSWERS THAT CAN'T BE QUESTIONED.



[Cause & Effect](#) is the biweekly newsletter of the Center for Inquiry community, covering the wide range of work that you help make possible.

Applying investigation and reason to current issues, the most widely read publication, [Skeptical Inquirer](#), keeps thinkers informed.

The Secular Humanist magazine, [Free Inquiry](#), delves into all facets of humanity. Nothing is off limits.

Fortnightly CFI updates not enough? Of course they're not! • Follow CFI on [Twitter](#); • Like us on [Facebook](#); • Encircle us on [Google+](#); • Subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel.

For I have done your bidding. I have slain mine enemies in your name. I have put women and children to death in your honor. I have caused great pain among them for your glory. — Psalms, 5:4-1



## Penn Jillette's Ten Suggestions

### Earn A Masters Degree in SCIENCE AND THE PUBLIC with CFI and SUNY Buffalo Entirely Online!

~••~

**Earn your Masters Degree in Education (Ed.M.) with emphasis on science and the public—entirely online!** Explore the methods and outlook of science as they intersect with culture and public policy. Understand the essentials of scientific literacy, communicating about science to the public, and making a difference in the national dialogue about science.

This unique two-year degree—a cooperative initiative of the State University of New York at Buffalo Graduate School of Education and the Center for Inquiry—is offered *entirely online*, and is ideal for students preparing for careers in research, science education, public policy, and science journalism, as well as further study in sociology, history and philosophy of science, science communication, education, or public administration.

Some of the courses required to complete this 33 credit hour master of education degree program include Scientific Writing; Science Curricula; Communicating Science to the Public; Science and Religion; Critical Thinking; History and Philosophy of Science; Science, Technology and Human Values; and Research Ethics. Students interested in receiving a Certificate in Science and the Public, issued by the Center for Inquiry, need only complete the last four courses.

**For More Information about this online masters degree program, please visit the University at Buffalo's Science and the Public website:**

<http://gse.buffalo.edu/online/science>

~••~

Questions relating to the program and tuition costs may be directed to Dr. Xiufeng Liu at [xliu5@buffalo.edu](mailto:xliu5@buffalo.edu). Questions relating to applications may be directed to the Office of Graduate Admissions and Student Services at [gseinfo@buffalo.edu](mailto:gseinfo@buffalo.edu) or (716) 645-2110.

To think that the ruler of the universe will run to my assistance and bend the laws of nature for me is the height of arrogance. That implies that everyone else is de-selected, unfavored by God, and that I am special, above it all.  
-- Dan Barker, *Losing Faith in Faith: From Preacher to Atheist*

1. The highest ideals are human intelligence, creativity, and love. Respect these above all things.
2. Do not put things or even ideas above other human beings.
3. Say what you mean, even when talking to yourself.
4. Put aside some time to rest and think.
5. Be there for your family. Love your parents, your partner, and your children.
6. Respect and protect all human life.
7. Keep your promises
8. Don't steal.
9. Don't lie.
10. Don't waste too much time wishing, hoping, and being envious; it'll make you bug nutty.

## How Creationism Was Created

June 10, 2015 by [Hemant Mehta](#) [131 Comments](#)

With so many Christians harboring Creationist beliefs and using the anti-gay refrain “It’s Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve,” the role of the First Man Ever isn’t one we can immediately dismiss. Adam (and what he represents) looms large over the faith.

Karl W. Giberson, a scientist and former evangelical Christian, has now written a book explaining the consequences of belief in Adam. It’s called *Saving the Original Sinner: How Christians Have Used the Bible’s First Man to Oppress, Inspire, and Make Sense of the World* (Beacon Press, 2015).

The story of how young-earth creationism, often just called creationism, eclipsed the far more intellectual — and orthodox — traditionalism from which it arose is an odd tale. One can be forgiven for thinking — as creationists like to claim — that God was its author. The movement is so popular now that most of America’s one hundred million evangelicals embrace it by default, believing it to be the only authentically biblical position available. Creationism came out of left field.

Full review: <http://bit.ly/1GSor3Y>

# World's Oceans Could Rise Higher, Sooner, Faster Than Most Thought Possible

By John Queally, staff writer for [Common Dreams](#)



New York City, 2050?

If a new scientific paper is proven accurate, the international target of limiting global temperatures to a 2°C rise this century will not be nearly enough to prevent catastrophic melting of ice sheets that would raise sea levels much higher and much faster than previously thought possible.

"Parts of [our coastal cities] would still be sticking above the water, but you couldn't live there."

—Dr. James Hansen According to the new study—which has not yet been peer-reviewed, but was written by former NASA scientist James Hansen and 16 other prominent climate researchers—current predictions about the catastrophic impacts of global warming, the melting of vast ice sheets, and sea level rise do not take into account the feedback loop implications of what will occur if large sections of Greenland and the Antarctic are consumed by the world's oceans.

A summarized draft of the full report was released to journalists on Monday, with the shocking warning that such glacial melting will "likely" occur this century and could cause as much as a ten foot sea-level rise in as little as fifty years. Such a prediction is much more severe than current estimates contained in reports issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—the UN-sponsored body that represents the official global consensus of the scientific community.

"If the ocean continues to accumulate heat and increase melting of marine-terminating ice shelves of Antarctica and Greenland, a point will be reached at which it is impossible to avoid large scale ice sheet disintegration with sea level rise of at least several meters," the paper states.

Separately, the researchers conclude that "continued high emissions will make multi-meter sea level rise practically unavoidable and likely to occur this century. Social disruption and economic consequences of such large sea level rise could be devastating. It is not difficult to imagine that conflicts arising from forced migrations and economic collapse might make the planet ungovernable, threatening the fabric of civilization."

*The Daily Beast's* Mark Hertsgaard, who attended a press call with Dr. Hansen on Monday, [reports](#) that the work presented by the researchers is warning that humanity could confront "sea level rise of several meters" before the end of the century unless greenhouse gas emissions are slashed much faster than currently contemplated.

This roughly 10 feet of sea level rise—well beyond previous estimates—would render coastal cities such as New York, London, and Shanghai uninhabitable. "Parts of [our coastal cities] would still be sticking above the water," Hansen said, "but you couldn't live there." This apocalyptic scenario illustrates why the goal of limiting temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius is not the safe "guardrail" most politicians and media coverage imply it is, argue Hansen and 16 colleagues in a blockbuster study they are publishing this week in the peer-reviewed journal [Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry](#). On the contrary, a 2C future would be "highly dangerous."

If Hansen is right—and he has been right, sooner, about the big issues in climate science longer than anyone—the implications are vast and profound. In the call with reporters, Hansen explained that time is of the essence, given the upcoming [climate talks in Paris](#) this year and the grave consequences the world faces if bold, collective action is not taken immediately. "We have a global crisis that calls for international cooperation to reduce emissions as rapidly as practical," the paper states. Hansen said he has long believed that many of the existing models were under-estimating the potential impacts of ice sheet melting, and told the *Daily Beast*: "Now we have evidence to make that statement based on much more than suspicion." Though he acknowledged the publication of the paper was unorthodox, Hansen told reporters that the research itself is "substantially more persuasive than anything previously published." In response to the paper, climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton University [affirmed](#): "If we cook the planet long enough at about two degrees warming, there is likely to be a staggering amount of sea level rise. Key questions are when would greenhouse-gas emissions lock in this sea level rise and how fast would it happen? The latter point is critical to understanding whether and how we would be able to deal with such a threat."

The new research, Oppenheimer added, "takes a stab at answering the 'how soon?' question but we remain largely in the dark. Giving the state of uncertainty and the high risk, humanity better get its collective foot off the accelerator."

And as the *Daily Beast's* Hertsgaard notes, Hansen's track record on making climate predictions should command respect from people around the world. The larger question, however, is whether humanity has the capacity to act.

"The climate challenge has long amounted to a race between the imperatives of science and the contingencies of politics," Hertsgaard concludes. "With Hansen's paper, the science has gotten harsher, even as the [Nature Climate Change study](#) affirms that humanity can still choose life, if it will. The question now is how the politics will respond—now, at Paris in December, and beyond."

# The St. Petersburg Declaration

*Released by the delegates to the Secular Islam Summit,  
St. Petersburg, Florida on March 5, 2007*

We are secular Muslims, and secular persons of Muslim societies. We are believers, doubters, and unbelievers, brought together by a great struggle, not between the West and Islam, but between the free and the unfree.

We affirm the inviolable freedom of the individual conscience. We believe in the equality of all human persons.

We insist upon the separation of religion from state and the observance of universal human rights.

We find traditions of liberty, rationality, and tolerance in the rich histories of pre-Islamic and Islamic societies. These values do not belong to the West or the East; they are the common moral heritage of humankind.

We see no colonialism, racism, or so-called "Islamophobia" in submitting Islamic practices to criticism or condemnation when they violate human reason or rights.

We call on the governments of the world to reject Sharia law, fatwa courts, clerical rule, and state-sanctioned religion in all their forms; oppose all penalties for blasphemy and apostasy, in accordance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights; eliminate practices, such as female circumcision, honor killing, forced veiling, and forced marriage, that further the oppression of women; protect sexual and gender minorities from persecution and violence; reform sectarian education that teaches intolerance and bigotry towards non-Muslims;

and foster an open public sphere in which all matters may be discussed without coercion or intimidation.

We demand the release of Islam from its captivity to the totalitarian ambitions of power-hungry men and the rigid strictures of orthodoxy.

We enjoin academics and thinkers everywhere to embark on a fearless examination of the origins and sources of Islam, and to promulgate the ideals of free scientific and spiritual inquiry through cross-cultural translation, publishing, and the mass media.

We say to Muslim believers: there is a noble future for Islam as a personal faith, not a political doctrine;

to Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Baha'is, and all members of non-Muslim faith communities: we stand with you as free and equal citizens;

and to nonbelievers: we defend your unqualified liberty to question and dissent.

Before any of us is a member of the Umma, the Body of Christ, or the Chosen People, we are all members of the community of conscience, the people who must choose for themselves.

## Why Become a Donor<sup>16</sup> or Friend of the Center for Inquiry?



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By getting involved, you are adding your voice to the thousands of others who are making a stand for science and reason.





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

## Dealing with Grief as an Individual

Coping with grief is tough. Secularists may find grief particularly difficult to navigate, considering that there aren't many cultural road maps for processing loss without religion.

Experiencing a death within your SSA affiliate group can be especially hard. Here we discuss what grief is, and provide tips on how to deal with grief and create a coping mechanism as a secular individual, as well as provide resources for therapies and counseling.

There is a [separate resource here](#) that covers how to help others in your group process grief, and how to run a group discussion on grief. There is also a resource on the [death](#).

Much of this is taken from Dr. William Meek's article in [Psychology Today](#).

grief, and depending on the person and the situation you may experience any or all of them to different degrees. The four components are:

1. 1. Separation Distress: feelings associated with sadness, anxiety, pain, anger, loneliness.
2. 2. Traumatic Distress: states of disbelief and shock, intrusions, and efforts to avoid intrusions and the spike of emotions they produce.
3. 3. Guilt, remorse, and regrets.
4. 4. Social withdrawal.

These experiences are not limited to times of loss. Grief may also cause symptoms similar to depression, such as loss of interest in activities, low energy, and overall depressed mood.

Read the rest: <https://secularstudents.org/IndividualGrief>

### Five stages of grief. Is this accurate?

You may have heard of the 5 stages of grief, a concept formed by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross. However, this model refers to the emotional stages of coming to terms with your own death, not the death of someone close to you, which makes it inapplicable in many cases. Instead look to Sidney Zisook and his research on dealing with grief. Zisook posits that there are four components of



**TBCoR Leadership Team 2015**

Toni Van Pelt ~ ISHV    Bill Norworthy UUCH    Beth Maxi HoTA    Mark Brandt, UUCH    Judy Adkins TBS, AoF    Chris Brown, MAF    Jenn Hancock, TBHF    Rick O'Keefe, CFI, TBS    Jim Peterson, HSS, TBPCC    Tracy Thomas AoF ~

### Be Included!

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

### Tampa Bay CoR

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



## Tampa Bay Coalition – August, 2015 Calendar of Reason

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

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

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



Summer Hiatus	E. TAMPA– Humanities Inst. at USF	See Web site for full listing of many great events and calendar.	
Several events monthly; 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday gen'l. mtg.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: <a href="http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php">http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php</a>	
08-01, Saturday 2:00 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Lecture, discussion, supper. Topic & RSVP: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/">http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/</a>	
08-09, Sunday, 1:30 PM	EAST TAMPA– Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/</a>	
08-14 & 29 See Web site	EAST TAMPA– M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club at MOSI	Web site: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/">http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/</a> for details & other events.	
08-15, Saturday, 11:00 AM	TAMPA– Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/">http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/</a>	
08-16, Sunday, 5 PM	PINELLAS COUNTY Humanist Society <i>Moveable Feast</i>	This month's venue: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/">http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/</a>	
08-16, Sunday, 2 PM Usually 3rd Sunday monthly	BRANDON– CFI Skeptics & Humanists	RSVP <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
08-16, Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Humanists	Details: <a href="http://www.uuc.org/">http://www.uuc.org/</a>	
08-16, Sunday, 2:00 PM & 09-22 Triannual Lecture	BRANDON & S.TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests & critical thinking. Click to RSVP: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/">http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/</a>	
08-17, Monday, 7:00 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH/ Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP</a>	
08-22, Saturday, 10:30 AM; <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. Limited to 12 paid-up CFI members. <b>RSVP:is required.</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
08-23, Sunday, 10:00 AM	BRADENTON/SARASOTA– Humanist Families	Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
2 Wed Evening & 4th Sunday	TEMPLE TERRACE UU Tampa Humanists	For More: <a href="http://uutampa.org/shag-discussion-topics/">http://uutampa.org/shag-discussion-topics/</a>	
08-31, Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	<b>RSVP is required</b> if you are coming. Seating is limited to 25! Click here before midnight, the Sunday before. <i>For CFI paid members.</i> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
08-02, 08, 16 See Meetup	BRANDON– Atheists of Brandon	Food, Discourse, Book club .... Details & RSVP: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/</a>	
October 10, 3:00 PM Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason presents ....	E. CLEARWATER–at UU Humanists	<b>RICHARD DAWKINS &amp; HERB SILVERMAN: by prepaid reservation only.</b> <a href="http://TBCOR.BrownPaperTickets.com">http://TBCOR.BrownPaperTickets.com</a> or call 1-800-838- 3006; <b>OR for reception:</b> <a href="http://rdclearwater.bpt.me/">http://rdclearwater.bpt.me/</a>	