

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

See Pg 6

Vol. 4 No. 2 February, 2015 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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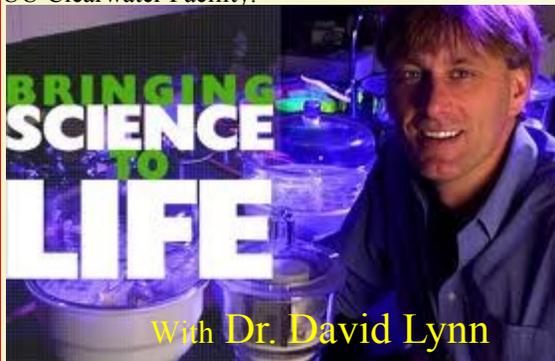
Special Projects
Mark Brandt



A Darwin Day

With Real Impact!

Be there on February 7th 2015 at the Octagon of the UU Clearwater Facility.



Our compelling Keynote speaker will be **Dr. David Lynn**, whose groundbreaking researches into the beginning of life on our planet have propelled him into the front ranks of biological science.

Dr. Elaine Hull from FSU will reveal the outcome of her investigations into the question of whether we are intrinsically wired for religion.

Also, we will hear from the ever engaging **Dr. Herb Silverman**, mathematician and humanist, with a wry eye for the absurdities of the human condition..

All our speakers will bring a greater and more useful understanding of the human condition. **Tickets** are available now from our member organizations.

You'll never spend a better \$25. More on Pg. 3

Remember, this is your chance to evolve!

For more information, and to **purchase tickets online**, see: www.evolutetampa.com

Upcoming...

On Feb. 11th, Gloria Steinem will be the speaker, at the Crowne Plaza Tampa-Westshore. Ms. Steinem will receive the Helen Gordon Davis Women's Leadership Award. See page 7 for more

In March: Black Non-believers will give a presentation with the sponsorship of CFI and The Tampa Humanist Assn.

Also in March: the Pinellas County chapter of the ACLU will host its annual Bill of Rights Dinner on March 5th. Cost is \$45. Contact : (727) 347-4266, or Email: mbuu@earthlink.net.



2015

Spend Post Darwin Day with Dinosaurs!

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa is hosting this family friendly event. **Sun, February 15, 2015 at 10:30 AM** Dinosaur World is located at 5415 Harvey Tew Rd. Plant City, FL



Come join us to celebrate Darwin's Birthday at Dinosaur World. Bring a picnic and come prepared to dance in the Blue Footed Booby Dance competition.

This is a fun park and has made many upgrades since our last visit. We will have picnic tables assigned to us.

Group rate (if we have 12 or more RSVPs) is \$8. Extras – like the dino dig and the mine package are extra. RSVP's required to get discounted admission. [RSVP Here](#). See details of the park at: <http://dinosaurworld.com/florida/>



HUMANIST CHARITIES
[Click to connect!](#)



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – February, 2015 Calendar

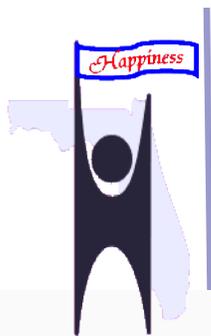
This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.

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



02-15 Sunday, 5 PM	PINELLAS COUNTY - Humanist Society Moveable Feast Members welcome.	This month's selection: see Page 4 Please RSVP to the address given on pg. 4	
02-23, Monday, 6:30 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, Sunday. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
02-TBA , Saturday, 10:30 AM Must have read the book to attend	NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE –CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
02-25, Wednesday, 6:30 PM Dinner & discussion	PALM HARBOR- See page 6 for details Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/	
02-07, Saturday 12:30 Annual Darwin Day	CLEARWATER– UU Humanists,	regular Sunday meeting: http://www.uuc.org/ See page 7 for more info on UU Humanists	
02-07, Saturday 12:30 Annual Darwin Day	CLEARWATER- Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Lectures & discussions. To RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/	
02-07, Saturday 12:30 Annual Darwin Day	TAMPA– Tampa Humanist Association	Details: Page 5, or see our Meetup http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/	
02-07, Saturday 12:30 Annual Darwin Day	CLEARWATER– Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical activities and critical thinking. Click to RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/	
02-07, Saturday 12:30 Annual Darwin Day	TAMPA Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay	Details & RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
02-08, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON– Atheists of Brandon	Atheists in the Pub. RSVP. http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/	
02-13 & 21 See Web site	TAMPA - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club at MOSI	See Web site : http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/ for all details.	
02-15, Sunday, 2 PM Usually 3rd Sunday of each month	BRANDON–CFI Skeptics & Humanists	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
02-15, Sunday, 10:30 AM Dinosaur World	BRADENTON- SARASOTA Humanist Families of Tampa Bay	Family outings and other activities. See page 13 www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/	
02-16, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. For topic, see page 10. RSVP at Web site: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP	
02-18, Wednesday, 6:00 PM –See the Meetup for updates	Central Pinellas Skeptics in the Pub at the Creole Café,	Skeptical activities and critical thinking. Click RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/	
02-11 thru 22 & 27, 4 th Friday gen'l. mtg.	ST. PETERSBURG - Astronomy Club	For several dates, location, & and details: http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php	
02-15, Sunday, 1:30 PM 02-07, 12:30 Annual Darwin Day	TAMPA- See page 6 for details Atheists of Florida, Inc.	More: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/	
02-03, 10, 17, 24 See Spring calendar	TAMPA Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many great events and calendar. Many fabulous speakers all in one month! See page 7.	





The Humanist Society³ of the Suncoast News

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

Volume 23 No. 2 February, 2015

December and January
mark the Time to

~ Join or Renew ~

Your Humanist Society of the Suncoast Annual Dues.

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



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

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

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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone:* _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send tax deductible (501c3) dues to:

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

This month's meeting is the **Darwin Day event** as described on Page 1. This will surprise and delight you in unexpected ways, as well as provide the kind of insight you have come to expect from our Darwin Day activities.

Just a bit more info on our speakers...

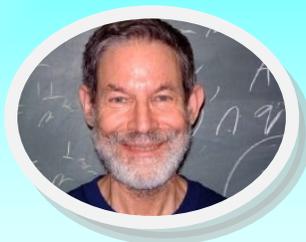


Dr. David Lynn works to understand the structures and forces that enable supra-molecular self-assembly, how chemical information can be stored and translated into new molecular entities, and how the forces of evolution can be harnessed in new structures with new functions.



Dr. Elaine Hull will tell us about her research into how well the adaptability of the human brain has made us all susceptible to religion and other non rational responses to life. Her psychological research has great implications for the progress of our species.

Dr. Herb Silverman has a well deserved reputation as an outstanding Humanist speaker. He is a mathematician, and an aspiring politician, (what a combo!) but mostly he's a really funny guy with an arresting point of view.



We note with sadness and condolence, the passing of Dave Kovar's sister.



Food: the first kindness. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings.

An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. As reactionaries in congress vote to cut the budget for food stamps and other key supports, there is increasing hunger here in our community. Thanks to *Glenn Paul*, chair. Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance.

We need volunteers! See a board member. Or write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.



We celebrate this day of reason along with thousands of others around the globe.

The science it promotes is the not only a shining beacon of human progress, but also the light of human survival. JP

Tampa Bay Skeptics
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
For February, it's back to...

Thai Bay Restaurant

Thai Bay Restaurant on **Sunday, February 15th at 5:00PM.**

This restaurant is located at 1300 East Bay Dr. near Highland Rd. in Largo and features many Asian style dinners in the \$10+ range. Beer/wine available. Come on down and enjoy the company; friendship and good talk.

RSVP!

Please respond to CAROLYN FRASE at 727-533-2279 or frasec@aol.com

Laugh Lines Reflections on my Position 2-15

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.
3. I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
5. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
6. If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
7. It was a whole lot easier to get older, than to get wiser.
8. Some days, you're the top dog; some days you're the lamp post.
9. I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
13. The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
14. When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.
15. Its not hard to meet expenses . . . they're everywhere.
16. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter . . . I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after".

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

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

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher
Jim Peterson, Editor
E-Mail us at:
jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,
click:

[Cognitive Neurosciences
Inc. 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](#)

But, meets this month only on February 7th at the Clearwater UU for Darwin Day!

In March, THA and CFI-Tampa Bay  co-host a meeting featuring

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

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

Learn More - come to the discussion...

<http://www.blacknonbelievers.org>



Mandisa L. Thomas



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



Perhaps we are losing it—
that bare edge of knowing—
feeling the flesh of
too many twitchy hands
triggered hands
groping for guns
for our next Gomorrah.

Lula Dovi 2015



**Dr. Neil
DeGrasse
Tyson**

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

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

Another Humanist Discussion group forms in east Tampa

UU Humanists of Tampa - Public Discussion, 2nd & 4th Wed. eve's.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
11400 Morris Bridge Rd
Tampa, FL 33637

More information can be found at :

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



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

AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR HUMANISM
Learn more at WeAreAAH.org

LANGSTON HUGHES
Writer and Activist ALIX JULES
Dallas - Ft. Worth Coalition of Reason

HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

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

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

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

Gale Barron

Humanist Quotes

**“Take the risk of thinking for yourself,
much more happiness, truth, beauty,
and wisdom will come to you that way.”**

Christopher Hitchens

[Read more](#)

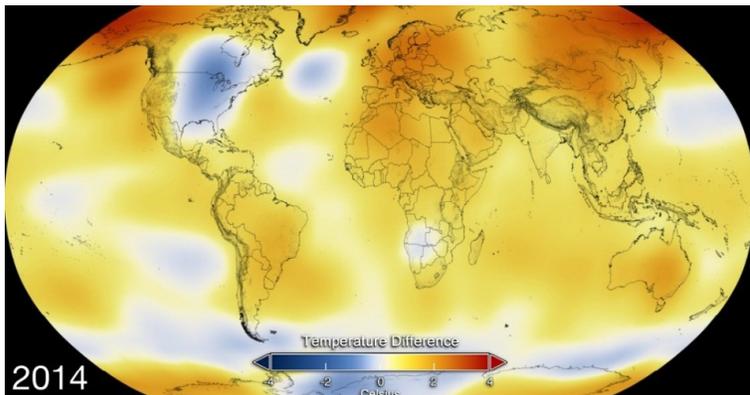


An autonomous project of the Humanist Society. Affiliate of [PCI](#)

2014 was the Earth's warmest year

since records began in 1880, according to reports from federal scientists published Friday. The finding reached by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) and [NASA](#) offers more confirmation of the planet's warming trend as a result of greenhouse gas emissions.

NOAA stated that 2014's combined global land and ocean surface temperature was 1.24°F above the 20th century average, surpassing the previous warmest year record set by 2005 and 2010.



Looking at the areas separately, the ocean was record warm, while the global land temperature was the fourth warmest. Further, the 20 warmest years all occurred in the past 20 years, and there have been 38 consecutive years of above-average global temperatures.

"This is the latest in a series of warm years, in a series of warm decades," stated Gavin Schmidt, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS) in New York. "While the ranking of individual years can be affected by chaotic weather patterns, the long-term trends are attributable to drivers of climate change that right now are dominated by human emissions of greenhouse gases."

Commenting on the record-breaking year, meteorologists Jeff Masters and Bob Henson [wrote](#): Climate change is already causing significant impacts to people and ecosystems, and these impacts will grow much more severe in the coming years. New research is painting a clearer picture of the tough decisions that lie ahead if we hope to reduce the serious risks that we and our planet face. As we approach the critical negotiations in Paris in December to hammer out a new binding climate change treaty, we should keep in mind that we can choose to take economically sensible steps to lessen the damage of climate change, and the cost of inaction is much higher than the cost of action.

Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more. 1/15

Africa's Solar Revolution



A new solar energy movement is bringing kilowatts to previously unlit areas of Africa – and changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. The idea behind the latest effort isn't to tap the power of the sun to electrify every appliance in a household. Instead, it is to install a small solar panel not much bigger than an iPad to power a few lights, a cellphone charger, and other basic necessities that can still significantly alter people's lives.

Just as the countries of Africa bypassed the era of copper land line telephones in favor of cell phones, so this movement may enable them to become world leaders in consumer controlled local energy development.

Going smaller better fits the budgets of the rural poor. People use the money they normally would spend on kerosene to finance their solar systems, allowing them to pay in small, affordable installments and not rely on government help. The concept is called pay-as-you-go solar. The simultaneous development of low power LED lamps promises even greater efficiencies. Many see it as helping to overcome the problems that have plagued previous solar "revolutions" in Africa.

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

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

Clearwater UU Humanists

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

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

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



Clearwater, Florida

See you for Darwin Day, Feb. 7th.!

Come for our monthly meeting on Sunday, **March 15th**, 12:30, in the Octagon at the Unitarian-Universalist of Clearwater campus, 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater, Florida. Our speaker will be **Ned Bellamy**, who will speak on the topic of "Reason and Meaning, two sources of wisdom". Ned received graduate degrees in law and business from New York University. Don't miss this very interesting speaker. Free & open to all.



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.

Celebrated author **Gloria Steinem** will be the speaker at a fundraiser luncheon Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the Crowne Plaza Tampa-Westshore. Ms. Steinem will receive the Helen Gordon Davis Women's Leadership Award at that time. For tickets, call Gail King at 813-251-8437, ext.225.



Gloria Steinem

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



When we filed our marriage lawsuit last March, we knew that someday love would win in Florida and that the couples we represented would be able to have their marriages recognized in the state they call home. Today, that historic day has finally arrived. Finally, all loving couples across the state are able to marry, regardless of gender, and those who are already married outside of the state of Florida will have their marriages officially recognized.

[Sign our wedding guestbook to congratulate our plaintiffs on the recognition of their marriages and thank them for their fight!](#)

Many Florida couples have waited years – even decades – for the chance to marry and have their marriage recognized in the state that they call home. After numerous attempts from the state to keep this day from coming, even asking the U.S. Supreme Court to delay it, love has prevailed. Now, all couples will be treated equally in the state of Florida as they plan for a future together.

Today would not be possible if it wasn't for the courageous couples we represented in a federal marriage lawsuit that challenged the state of Florida's refusal to recognize their marriages.

[Join us in congratulating the couples who made today possible!](#)

Whether you or a loved one plan on getting married today, or will finally have their marriage recognized, or you are just a supporter of the cause of equality, today we celebrate the beginning of a fairer Florida and the end of a law that has hurt too many families for too long. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Thank you for standing with us. For more:

<http://aclufl.org/>

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T
PROTECT ITSELF
JOIN THE ACLU

2/15



The Humanities Institute of USF

The Civil War: An American Legacy with David Goldfield

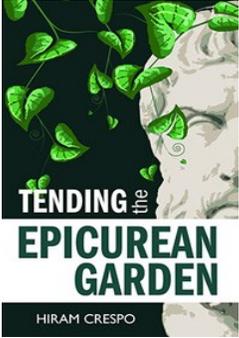
Tuesday, Feb. 3
6:00 p.m. CWY 206
(ROTC/Military Sciences Bldg)
Refreshments and book signing



David Goldfield is the Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History, University of North Carolina, Charlotte and author of the acclaimed book *America Aflame* (2011). He argues that although the War ended slavery and saved the Union, it did not resolve the status of the freed slaves or the nature of the new Union. "How Americans remembered that war would shape those issues over the next 150 years."

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.

Meaningful Books



[Tending the Epicurean Garden](#)

By Hiram Crespo, [ebook from Humanist Press](#)

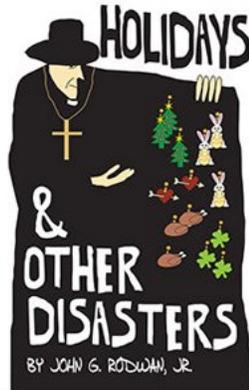
Hiram Crespo brings the Epicurean passion for maximizing happiness into the modern age with this practical guidebook. He offers a blizzard of ideas, from healthy recipes that stimulate natural “feel-good” chemicals in the brain to the journaling of positive events, even on a bad day. The highest attainable happiness, though, is communing with friends.

[Holidays and Other Disasters](#)

By John G. Rodwan

Holiday sale offer: [\\$4.99 ebook from Humanist Press](#)

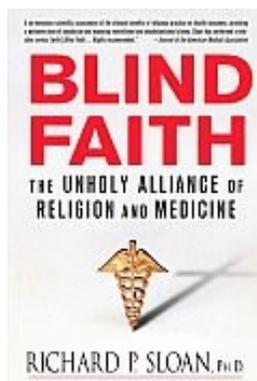
Holidays and Other Disasters considers the major U.S. holidays – Easter, Christmas, Opening Day, etc. – from an atheist’s perspective. The book considers the various issues holidays raise, including race and class, and discusses other forms of expressive activity, such as literature, music and sports, along with religion and holiday rituals.



[Seasonings](#) by Humanist

Society member and journalist poet, **Lula J. Dovi** has completed an illustrated chapbook of poetry reflecting on her 92 years of adventures. It is [available here](#) at Powell’s Books.

Pharmacists who refuse to fill prescriptions for contraceptives. Surgeons who pray in the OR. Pro-life clinics and end-of-life interventions, intelligent-design activists and stem-cell-research opponents. Is *this* the state of modern medicine in America? In *Blind Faith*, Dr. Richard P. Sloan examines the fragile balance and dangerous alliance between religion and medicine; two practices that have grown disconcertingly close during the twenty-first century.



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](#)

Evolve Fish is a good source for your freethought goodies:

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

<http://evolvefish.com/>

The Matt Cooper

Memorial Humanist Library

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

#	TITLE	AUTHOR
1.	The Expanding Circle	Peter Singer
2.	In Gods we Trust	Scott Atran
3.	Why Evolution is True	Jerry Coyne
4.	The Second World	Panag Khanna
5.	Denialism	Michael Specter
6.	The Selfish Gene	Richard Dawkins
7.	Democracy Incorporated	Sheldon Wolin
8.	The Upside Irrationality	Dan Ariely
9.	The End of Growth	Richard Heinberg
10.	The God Delusion	Richard Dawkins
11.	All That We Share	Jay Wallgasper
12.	Sex, Time, and Power	Leonard Shlain
13.	Sex at Dawn	C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14.	What liberal Media	Eric Alderman
15.	The End of Faith	Sam Harris
16.	Plan B	Lester Brown
17.	The Portable Atheist	Christopher Hitchens
18.	Open Society	George Soros
19.	Non Believer Nation	David Niose
20.	God on Trial	Peter Irons
21.	Natural Experiments of History	Diamond-Robinson
22.	The Missionary Position	Christopher Hitchens
23.	Life Inc.	Douglas Rushkoff
24.	A brief History of Time	Stephen 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 a God.	G. Harrison
29.	Mathematics and Politics	Alan Taylor
30.	Stealing Elections	John Fund
31.	The God Virus	Darrel Ray
32.	What Every American Should Know About Rest of World.	Rossi
33.	Imagine There’s no Heaven	Editors of Free Inquiry
34.	Hidden Order	David Friedman
35.	What the Dog Saw	Malcom Gladwell
36.	Sway	Ori, Rom Brafman
37.	The Better Angels of our Nature	Steven Pinker
38.	Letter to a Young Contrarian	Christopher Hitchens
39.	Hot, Flat, and Crowded	Thomas Friedman
40.	Gaming the Vote	William Poundstone
41.	Subversion Fable	Alexa Kckearing
43.	Evolution and the Big Question	David Stamos
44.	Why People Believe Weird Things	Michael Shermer
45.	The World is Curved	David Snick
46.	The Snow Ball	Warren Buffett
47.	The Moral Landscape	Sam Harris
48.	How We Believe	Michael Shermer
49.	Full House	Steven Jay Gould
50.	The Origins of Political Order	Francis Fukuyama
51.	Asimov’s Guide to the Bible	Isaac Asimov
52.	Autobiography of Mark Twain	Harriet Smith, Editor
53.	Science Friction	Michael Shermer
54.	Genius	James Gleick
55.	Inevitable Illusions	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?	Fittrakis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman
61.	Autobiography of Mark Twain	Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62.	The Skeptics Annotated Bible	
63.	Database Systems (Complete Ver.)	Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis
64.	Reluctant Database Administrators	Josef Finsel
65.	Asimov’s Guide to the Bible	Isaac Asimov
66.	Inevitable Illusions	M. Piattelli-Palmarini
67.	Ain’t Nobody’s business If You Do	Peter McWilliams
69.	Bonk	Mary Roach
70.	What Money Can’t Buy	Michael J. Sandel
71.	Financial Shenanigans	Howard Shilit
72.	Sex & God	Darrel Ray, ED.D
73.	Best American Non required Reading	Dave Eagers
74.	Reporting at Wit’s End	St. Clair McKelway
75.	Corporations are not People	Clements
76.	Could I Vote Mormon for president?	Crugan – Phillips
77.	Culture of Honor	Nisbett – Cohen
78.	Rot on the Vine	Stenesh

Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter on **Sunday, Feb 15 for our annual meeting. But we urge everyone to join us at the Darwin day events described on page 1 of this newsletter.**

See the [AoF Meetup](#) for more information.

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](#).

Soon you will be able to subscribe to AoF's news service, keeping you informed of matters of importance to the freethought, secular community.

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 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.

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

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Institute for Science and Human Values

Inspired by Empathy, Creativity and guided by Reason

Recognize Religious Freedom Day

Enacted by Congress in 1992 and officially recognized every January 16 by an annual presidential [proclamation](#), Religious Freedom Day ought to be an official national holiday. After all we have off for Easter, the religious celebration that really should have no official recognition in a truly secular, democratic country. Let's celebrate one of the most important tenets of our country, [religious liberty](#).

What is Religious Freedom Day all about?

Religious Freedom Day commemorates the enactment of the [Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom](#) in 1786. From President Obama's 2014 proclamation we are reminded the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, penned by Thomas Jefferson, declared religious liberty a natural right and any attempt to subvert it "a departure from the plan of the Holy Author of our religion, who being Lord both of body and mind, yet chose not to propagate it by coercions on either. The Statute inspired religious liberty protections in the First Amendment, which has stood for almost two and a quarter centuries."

President Obama's 2014 proclamation

"Today, America embraces people of all faiths and of no faith. We are Christians and Jews, Muslims and Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs, atheists and agnostics. Our religious diversity enriches our cultural fabric and reminds us that what binds us as one is not the tenets of our faiths, the colors of our skin, or the origins of our names.

"What makes us American is our adherence to shared ideals -- freedom, equality, justice, and our right as a people to set our own course."

The American Revolutionists' Resolve

The fact is American Revolutionists were fleeing from the official church of England, the Anglican Church, even as it crossed the pond and invaded the Virginia Colony. Their goal was to root out religious preferences and privilege within the newly established civil government, including paying out taxpayers funds to religion organizations and disallowing religious beliefs from invading civil law, NO MATTER THE RELIGION. Religious fanatics distort and try to rewrite U.S. history by declaring the country was founded as a "Christian" nation.

Read the text of the law here on the [ISHV website](#)



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

Hospices in Hillsborough County: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-hillsborough-county-florida>

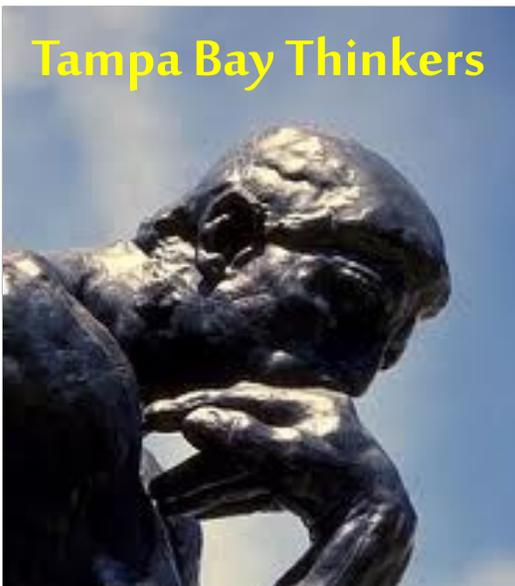
In Pinellas: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pinellas-county-florida>

Pasco: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pasco-county-florida>

The Hemlock Society: <http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm>

Tampa Bay Thinkers

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008 at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. in Tampa, every third Monday of the month at 7 PM. Feb. 16th: “Finding Humor in Everything.” Come cogitate with us!

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



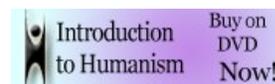
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year.

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,

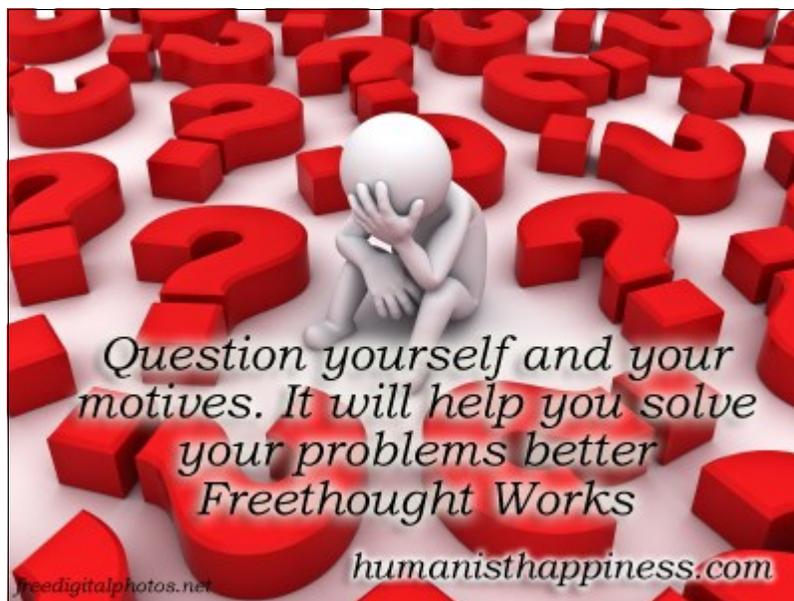
Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other’s company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings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

Thank you!



Making your dreams come true is not incompatible with being a skeptic. In fact, being a skeptic means you are more likely to be able to make your dreams come true, precisely because you will be dealing more effectively with reality and doing the hard work required instead of just wishing.

Jennifer Hancock

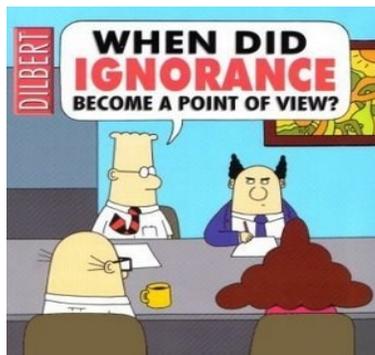
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AH Appignani Humanist
LC Legal Center

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.



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IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Dying Without Deity

April 10 & 11, 2015

• Save The Date •



Secular Coalition for Florida is unlike any other nontheistic state organization—it brings together organizations and individuals for the express purpose of lobbying government officials on your behalf. If your organization supports our mission statement, please sign up [here](#).

Congressional Majorities may threaten Church State Separation



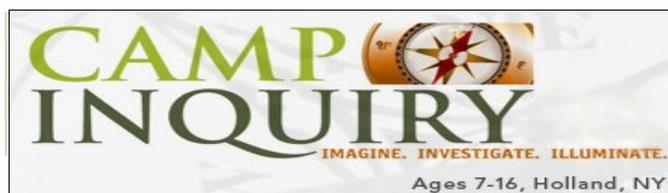
Jim Inhofe, a Republican U.S. senator from Oklahoma, believes the making of public policy should be left to a higher power.

"[G]od's still up there," Inhofe, a Religious Right ally, opined in 2012. "The arrogance of people to think that we, human beings, would be able to change what He is doing in the climate is to me outrageous."

Whether or not you agree with Inhofe on climate change is a secondary matter: The fact is, he wants to craft legislation based purely on dogma favored by a handful of people instead of policies that would help the entire country. Inhofe, a former insurance executive, has ascended to the head of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee – granting him a powerful platform from which to spread his ideas.

Inhofe received his promotion partly due to the Religious Right, which mobilized millions of voters who hate President Barack Obama ahead of the November elections. Thanks in part to the fact that 78 percent of white, evangelical Protestants who participated in an election last year voted for Republicans, both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are under conservative control for the first time since 2006. As a result, defenders of separation of church and state can expect a steady flow of congressional measures that could harm religious liberty.

The issues in play will include school voucher expansions, "religious freedom" exemptions to secular laws, the role of religion in the military and attempts to provide direct federal funding for houses of worship.



Information about Camp Inquiry 2015 will be announced soon! Please [email us](#) for specific questions about camp.



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





FLORIDA FREETHINKERS & HUMANISTS

WE'RE GOING...

TO HELL & BACK

5-NIGHT CRUISE

ROYAL CARIBBEAN'S BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS, TAMPA, FL

WESTERN CARIBBEAN
GEORGETOWN, GRAND CAYMAN & COZUMEL, MEXICO

NOVEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 5, 2015

A Deposit of ONLY \$100 is necessary to join us in Hell Staterooms start @ \$410 per person, including ALL taxes, fees and port charges! (Based on double occupancy)

Rates below are starting prices and include all taxes, fees and port charges (Double Occupancy)

Interior: 2 people - \$820 total (\$410 pp) \$100 per month after \$100 Deposit

Ocean Window: 2 people- \$865 total (\$432.50) \$100 per month after \$100 Deposit

Balcony: 2 people - \$1075 total (\$532.50 pp) \$150 per month after \$100 Deposit

ONLY a \$100 Deposit is Required to Secure your cabin/stateroom * Money Back guarantee Prior to July 31st 2015 .

For more information:

<http://www.meetup.com/GotReason/events/219589929/>
or: <http://www.ronelcruisesandtours.com>



Mayan myth claims that Cozumel was home to the gods. Cozumel is a place fit for the gods, with its, ruined Mayan temples, exotic jungle wildlife, and crystalline waters teeming with tropical fish. Enjoy Palancar Reef, considered one of the most spectacular coral formations in all the Caribbean.

On the way to Hell and Back, enjoy a ship that combines sleek swiftness, panoramic vistas, and wide open spaces. With acres of glass enclosing the nine-story central atrium, elevators facing the sea, and floor-to-ceiling windows throughout, you'll never be at a loss for an incredible view. Bask at the tranquil Solarium pool, recharge at VitalitySM Spa, or reach new heights on our signature rock-climbing wall. When the sun goes down, the night heats up with Broadway-style shows, Casino Royale®, plus 16 bars and lounges that never feature a cover. It's the amazing vacation YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.

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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](http://RickOKeefe.com).



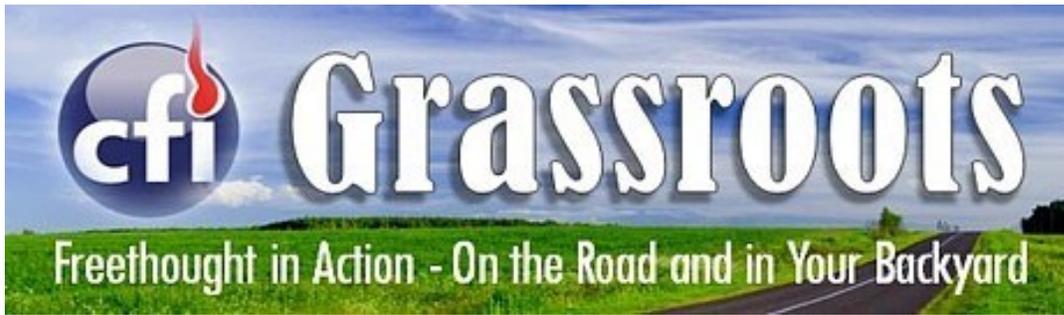
Tampa Bay Computer Society

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater:

Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Dave 'Doc' Dockery President,

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



Rick O'Keefe

Day of Solidarity for Black Non-Believers 4th Sunday in February

The percentage of black non-believers in the U.S. is small but increasing. Most have difficulty meeting other black non-believers or finding many who are involved in secular organizations. The internet has made many connections possible; however, the common feelings expressed by black non-believers are those of isolation, loneliness, and alienation. Often the remedy for these feelings is activism. This activism includes diligently searching for and befriending other non-believers, working with as many other non-believers as possible to address social ills, continuing to be educated about the factual world, providing positive expressions for secular ideas through writing and public speaking, and strengthening the secular community by supporting existing organizations as well as creating dynamic new ones. Unfettered activism is captured in the purpose of the Day of Solidarity for Black Non-Believers.

For more information, email aaDayOfSolidarity@yahoo.com

Support [CFI-Tampa Bay](#), keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, and become a member!



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

What is Tampa Bay Skeptics?

Founded in 1988, Tampa Bay Skeptics is a nonprofit educational and scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of **paranormal** and **fringe-science** claims, and the dissemination of factual information about such claims. In 2004, TBS became a Special Interest Group of the **Center For Inquiry-Tampa Bay**.

TBS c/o O'Keefe, 4011 S. Manhattan Ave., Box 139, Tampa, FL 33611-1277 Or click to simply join our [TBS e-mail list](#)

CFI on the Current Ebb & Flow

When **Pope Francis** declared that religious beliefs were off-limits to mockery or "insult," [Ron Lindsay responded](#) with a piece in the *Huffington Post*, explaining to the pope the difference between beliefs and actual human beings, and that "ridicule used judiciously can often be effective in puncturing inflated claims." Such as those of the pope.

- CFI's **David Koepsell** also reacts to the pope, as well as to the state crackdown on offensive speech in France, reminding us that "the harms caused by speech can be addressed in most instances [with more speech](#)."
- In a world where "The Food Babe" gets to give pseudoscientific advice without regard to reality, **Kylie Sturgess** introduces us to "[The Science Babe](#)," **Yvette Guinevere**, who brings actual science to YouTube and aims to be the "scientist as drinking buddy."
- **Ben Radford** [interviews cartoonist Celestia Ward](#) about her craft, and touches on the *Hebdo* attacks, saying, "Caricaturists working in the political arena can face dangers similar to those that plague skeptics and debunkers in hostile territory."
- **Stephen Law** refutes popular arguments against the [publishing of the Hebdo cartoons](#) in the news media. "Yes, there are good reason [sic] for not satirizing racial and other minorities and representing them as stupid or greedy or whatever. ... But there's no such reason for not

[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.

"You can get into a habit of thought in which you enjoy making fun of all those other people who don't see things as clearly as you do. We have to guard carefully against it." -- Carl Sagan



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

Practical Freethought

So you don't believe in gods? You are not alone. And yes, you can be good without God. Millions are. 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 representing freethinkers, humanists, skeptics, atheists and agnostics that provide a sense of community and a central clearinghouse for the many like-minded groups in the greater Tampa Bay 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.

This site <http://unitedcor.org/tampabay> 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 nontheists 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.

Nontheists 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). TampaBay CoR 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.

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—you can be good without a god or religion. Millions of us are.

February is

Black History Month

1st is Freedom Day
 2nd - Groundhog Day
 6th is Lame Duck Day
 12th is Birthday for Lincoln & Darwin
 16th - Do a Grouch a Favor Day
 17th - Random Acts of Kindness Day
 20th is Cherry Pie Day
 22nd - International Day for Thinking
 27th - Polar Bear Day
 28th - Public Sleeping Day

See: <http://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/february.htm> for more.



TBCoR Leadership Team 2015

Mark Brandt, Judy Adkins, Chris Brown, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas
 UUCH TBS-AoF MAF TBHF CFI HSS, TBPC AoF

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.