

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason



Freethought News

Vol. 5 No. 4 April 2016 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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Now in Memory...

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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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Special Projects

Mark Brandt, Judy Adkins,
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:

www.evolvetampa.com

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

Dr. Jack Robinson

His life ended on March 21 2016.



Jack was a great teacher, scientist, a wonderful humanist, and a true friend. In his memory, speak your truth loudly!

Take the bus to ...

Reason

the Rally that is,

in Washington D.C.
June 4th, 2016.

The Reason Rally and its member organizations are organizing a bus trip to bring Tampa Bay folks to the rally that is promised to be a major event on the national scene. (You won't want to miss Johnny Depp!)

For more information as it develops, see
Page 13

"We are many! We are strong! We are united!"

Looking for a copy of *Brief Candle in the Dark* by Richard Dawkins? See information on page 13.

Saving Culture

TB-CoR leader, **Mark Brandt** was a student studying in Italy in November of 1966 when the spring rain turned to a torrent in the Arno river that inundated northern Italy, impacting one of the worlds great civilizational foundations, Florence.



Mark was among the many American students then in Italy, who responded to the emergency; "The angels of the mud," who came to Florence to save the books and the works of art from destruction. However, the damage to the artistic and historical heritage was considerable. In fact, in the store rooms of the National Library, thousands of precious volumes were completely destroyed and a great many artistic works were substantially destroyed, in spite of subsequent restoration. But of those precious works that remained, more than a few owe their present existence to Mark and his friends.

This past February, some of those "angels," Mark among them, were called back to accept the gratitude of those whose cultural heritage was rescued. Truly, Humanism at work!



David Silverman

comes to Tampa Bay in May.

Watch this newsletter for more details later. See page 7 for **Matt Dilahunty's** visit in April to the UU Humanists.

Happiness

Our
29th
Year

The Humanist Society² 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

Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL ([map](#))

Volume 24 No. 4 April, 2016

*Join or renew the
Humanist Society of the Suncoast*

Practical Humanism

How to enjoy the benefits of the Humanistic Approach to Reality.

Humanistic psychology is a value orientation that holds a hopeful, constructive view of human beings and of their substantial capacity to be self-determining. It is guided by a conviction that intentionality and ethical values are strong psychological forces, among the basic determinants of human behavior. This conviction leads to an effort to enhance such distinctly human qualities as choice, creativity, the interaction of the body, mind and social experience, and the capacity to become more aware, free, responsible, life-affirming and trustworthy.

From this comprehensive approach to life, Humanism engages certain ethical questions from a very different perspective than traditional "self" oriented philosophies. To find ourselves in the lives of others (empathy) is to begin to grasp the nature of who we are. Happiness is consequent to the love felt in caring deeply for the well being of others.

Explore with us, asking and answering some probing questions of these ideas.

Come on in, have a seat!

Today's program will be followed by our annual election to the board of directors. If you have been a paid up member for a year, and would like to participate directly in the governance and direction of this organization, run for a seat. You will earn the gratitude and plaudits of everyone and be able to have a hand in making some important decisions about all aspects of local Humanism.

Only 3 meetings a year are required by the bylaws, though if you want to pursue some important new initiative, we can have more.



Tampa Bay Harvest

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

Please join us at

**2:00 PM
April 2nd**

in

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

Many of us go to dinner afterwards at: **Marguerites Cafe.** Directly across from the Library.

Annual Dues.

- _ Trial -3 month- free news
- _ **Regular -\$25**
- _ Reg. Couple -\$30.
- _ **Supporter -\$35/40 (W/ pin above)**
- _ Life -\$200.
- _ Life Couple -\$250.
- _ Associate -\$10



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

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

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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: * _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

*Send tax deductible (501c3) check
made out to:
"Marios Psomas"*

*Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
1013 Connecticut Rd
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689*

**= optional*



Let us know what you think: in depth! Reader ideas and commentary will be given very favorable consideration.

If you have a letter, comment, suggestion or editorial contribution? Write to us at:
tbcor@metrodirect.net



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The Movable Feast:
the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner
for April, is at ...the

ACROPOLE

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

We're changing our approach. Now its just open. No RSVP required. Trundle on down for the fine food and fastidiously fabulous fellowship! See [Menu](#). Be there on Sunday Apr. 17th by **5 O'clock** to meet with our friends. As always, this is a self treated dinner. Ask to be seated with "the humanists."

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

~ Only the best people eat here when we do. ~

Laugh Lines Alt. Meanings 4-16

- 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
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.

Send in your funny & fresh lines!

Jim P.

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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Steve Brown,
Lois Fries, Secretary
Dave Kovar, Vice President
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Jim Peterson, President
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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

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) 452-6547



Tampa Humanist Association

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

April 16th, 11 AM

Our special guest, famous inventor, Loof Lirpa whose yearly appearance we great with enthusiasm, was unable to make it this year, having been exhausted by his prior commitments.

So we are on our own to discuss the controversies of the day. Join us for an always fascinating, if spontaneous discussion.

JP

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



Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!



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

Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)

Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

Tampa Bay CoR

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

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

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

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

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

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

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

Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net:

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



Member, TB-CoR



4

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

Bill Norsworthy, is our Florida representative.

Please sign up [here](#). Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, and appreciated!



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

A Humanist Discussion group in east Tampa !

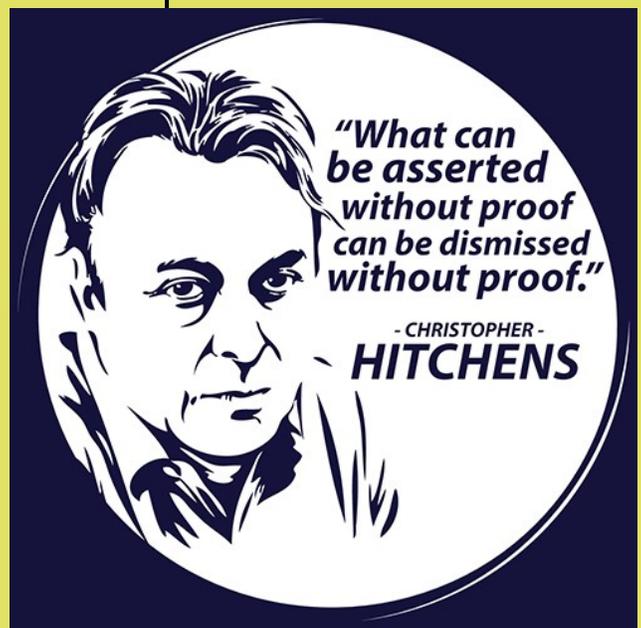
UU Humanists of Tampa

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/>





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

"NASA dropped a bombshell of a climate report," wrote meteorologists Bob Henson and Dr. Jeff Masters, founder of the Weather Underground.

"February 2016 has soared past all rivals as the warmest seasonally adjusted month in more than a century of global recordkeeping."

February's new temperature record beat that set in January 2016 by a full 0.21°C, which Masters and Henson described as "an extraordinary margin." Scientists are normally wary of highlighting a single month's temperature spike, particularly in an El Niño cycle. However, this record bests even the one set during the "super" El Niño of February 1998 by 0.47°C. Stefan Rahmstorf, from Germany's Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research and a visiting professorial fellow at the University of New South Wales, told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the new figures are "quite stunning ... it's completely unprecedented."

And given the increasing concentration of carbon in the global atmosphere, which is driving higher long-term temperature increases as well as other extreme weather events, the string of monthly records is a foreboding sign. Henson and Masters explain:

The real significance of the February record is in its departure from the seasonal norms that people, plants, animals, and the Earth system are accustomed to dealing with at a given time of year. Drawing from NASA's graph of long-term temperature trends, if we add 0.2°C as a conservative estimate of the amount of human-produced warming that occurred between the late 1800s and 1951-1980, then the February result winds up at 1.55°C above average. If we use 0.4°C as a higher-end estimate, then February sits at 1.75°C above average. Either way, this result is a true shocker, and yet another reminder of the incessant long-term rise in global temperature resulting from human-produced greenhouse gases. They conclude, "we are now hurtling at a frightening pace toward the globally agreed maximum of 2.0°C warming over pre-industrial levels."

And Rahmstorf also notes, "We are in a kind of climate emergency now." Read more online at: www.postcarbon.org 4/16



For 50 years, the ACLU of Florida has been working across the Sunshine State to promote and defend the rights guaranteed to Floridians by the Constitution and laws.

Saturday, April 2, join your fellow Tampa Bay civil libertarians for the **ACLU of Florida Greater Tampa Chapter Annual Meeting** to be a part of that history and learn more about the fights ahead.

[ACLU of Florida Greater Tampa Chapter Annual Meeting](#)
Saturday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.
Seminole Heights Library Community Room
4711 Central Avenue, Tampa, FL 33603

This year's annual meeting will feature a presentation from ACLU of Florida Executive Director Howard Simon on the organization's 50 year history. The meeting will also feature a panel discussion on achieving criminal justice reforms in Florida.

The annual meeting will also include elections for the Greater Tampa Chapter's board. <https://aclufl.org>



Connect with the [ACLU of Florida](#)

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF JOIN THE ACLU

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc.

(SPAC), has been meeting continuously since 1927. It was incorporated in 1979 as a nonprofit, tax deductible organization. For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members and the public. For additional information send your emails to: spaceaminer@gmail.com



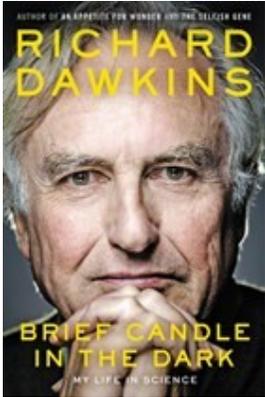
Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November and December when it is on the third Friday) at the Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL., at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public.



TBCoR Leadership Team 2016

Toni Van Pelt ~ ISHV Bill Norsworthy UUCH Beth Maxi HoTA Mark Brandt, UUCH Chris Brown, MAF Jenn Hancock, TBHF Rick O'Keefe, CFI, TBS Jim Peterson, HSS, TBPC Al Hann AoF ~

Meaningful Books

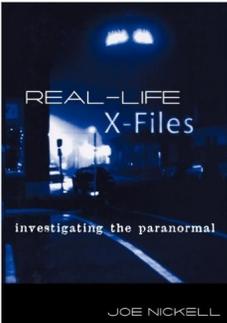
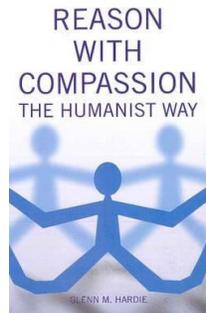


The last few copies, signed by Richard Dawkins, are available. This is his recent autobiography that he presented to us in Clearwater last October.

Order here:

<http://bit.ly/EvolveTampa>

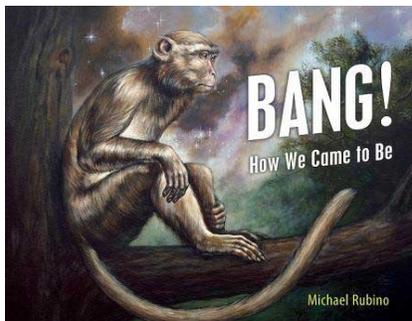
The book reviews the essential ideas of Humanism, its origins and sources and then moves on to different aspects of morality, emphasizing that it must be grounded in experience to have validity. One of the strengths of the book is that it uses point-by-point summaries, which are easy to review. Another is that it is replete with references and suggestions for further reading. It deserves a prominent place on the bookshelves of anyone with an interest in modern Humanism. <http://bit.ly/1ShDeGw>



As a former private investigator and forensic writer, Joe Nickell has spent much of his career identifying forged documents, working undercover to infiltrate theft rings, and investigating questioned deaths. Now he turns his considerable investigative skill toward the paranormal, researching the most well-known and mysterious phenomena all over the world. http://bit.ly/Real-Life_X-Files

Written for children as well as for parents and professionals, a guide to the complex issues of the scientific world-view is discussed in a manner designed to help children feel good about themselves.

<http://bit.ly/1PdGXwK>



More *Seasonings* by CFI & Humanist Society member and journalist- poet, **Lula J. Dovi**. She has completed a second illustrated chapbook of poetry reflecting on her 92 years of adventures. It is available at [Google Books](#) now. But the first [can be found here](#).



Evolve Fish is a good source for your freethought goodies:
Pins, jewelry, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc
<http://evolvefish.com/>

The Matt Cooper

Memorial Humanist Lending Library

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

TITLE

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

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Clements
Cragun – Phillips
Nisbett – Cohen
Stenesh
Kaye

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

Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins



Join members of our Tampa chapter at our new headquarters / Studio Building

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

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

**April, 2016 - 5004 S. MacDill Ave
Tampa Fl.**

Are you concerned about the upcoming school board elections?

Help Atheists of Florida research candidates running for school board across the state of Florida. We will survey them on their views of state-church separation and the teaching of science, then publish the results so voters can have a better understanding before voting (we will not be endorsing any candidate). This can be done from your home, no need to go anywhere. The first elections are in August, so we need to get started very soon. Just send an email to elections@aof.ngo to volunteer.

Are you going to the Reason Rally?

We are planning on an event the weekend after the Reason Rally – the Reason Revival. If you attended the reason rally, come and share your experiences with us. We will have speakers about reason and critical thinking and snacks of course. Look for info on our meetup site or email us at aof@aof.ngo.

Did you know that this year is the 225th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights?

We will be having an event in December to observe this anniversary, especially as it relates to the establishment clause. If you would like to help organize this event, please send an e-mail to aof@aof.ngo about your concerns, ideas, etc. and we will discuss them.

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 7:00 PM

Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com

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

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

Clearwater UU Humanists

Sunday, April 17th at 12:30 .

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



Matt Dilahunty, the logician extraordinaire from Austin, Tx. He has hosted an atheist TV show in Austin for a number of years, spoken at a number of humanist/atheist conferences both in the US and abroad, and produced a number of videos on the specious reasoning of various apologetic arguments. His talk will be an illuminating and in depth look at the irrationality of religious belief.



Clearwater, Florida



If you're headed for the Reason Rally...

Are you ready to learn the skills to make your voice heard on Capitol Hill? [Register now](#) for Reason Rally's Advocacy Day presented by the **Secular Coalition for America!** We're scheduling visits with every single one of the 535 Congressional offices - so we need you! [Click here](#) to learn more about Advocacy Day, including the event schedule.

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008. Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM. April 18th : Topic:

See our Meetup site: www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/ for more information.

The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



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

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

On the web at: www.maaf.info

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

Co-Organizer:

MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB, FL

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

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

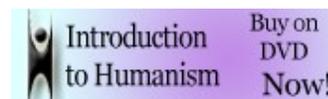


Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings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

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

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

Thank you! **Jennifer Hancock**



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.

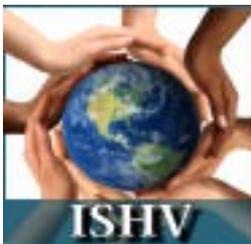
Write **Rodrick Colbert** at: freethinkersust@gmail.com.



Tampa Bay Computer Society & Doc's Café

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. Visit our *new* facility on 300 S Duncan Ave Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755. [Map](#) Dave 'Doc' Dockery, President. Check out *Doc's Café* to discuss serious ideas and issues. Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org

We repair our member's computers Free!



The Institute for Science and Human Values

Various presentations throughout the year in the Tampa Bay area on significant matters of human concern. Watch this space for future announcements.

Toni Van Pelt President and Public Policy Director

Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc. Mailing address: 11280 Freedom Ct., Seminole, FL 33772 Email: tvanpelt@ishv.net Web: www.ishv.net



Rick O'Keefe

Peace in Our Time

By David Koepsell, Director of Education for CFI, March 22, 2016

Since I was a child, I have marveled and despaired at mankind's propensity and capacity for violence. Mostly through movies and television, since I grew up in a quiet, rural town, I was exposed to visions of wars both real and fictional, as the tail end of Vietnam on the nightly news streamed into our home, and visions of nuclear Armageddon dominated my nightmares. I dreamed of stopping this, and read rather obsessively about war and peace, about political history and especially the nuclear arms race because I felt that that was our greatest threat. I majored in political science, at the very end of the Cold War, and as the Soviet Union fell, it seemed briefly that at least that threat would wane. For a fleeting moment, as walls fell and freedom was being celebrated in former dictatorships, as velvet revolutions, and people's revolutions, and student uprisings undermined the vestiges of crumbling, corrupt empires, it seemed that peace and freedom were both attainable.

But the 90s brought us back to the grim reality of conflict. A Europe that had harbored ethnic and religious tensions that were quelled by Cold War fears and authoritarianism, were allowed again to blossom and take their toll. A liberated Russia experienced chaos and a resurgence of a new form of authoritarianism, and proxy fights continued between the two superpowers, who have not, by the way, disposed completely of their nuclear weapons. Then terror seemed to explode into our lives in ways we hadn't foreseen, with New York, now Paris, and Brussels, beacons of modernity, made unimaginably vulnerable. The veneer of civilization suddenly seemed so fragile, and while global conflict and even regional wars were distant and unlikely for at least a generation, our personal security and sense of safety became victim to a seemingly new reality, magnified by our instantaneous communications and media culture. Yet, despite that terror and devastating war that have marred our emergence into a new millennium, the world is somehow and remarkably more peaceful than the last century's turn.

Cold War tensions continue in a new form, still primarily between the US and Russia who, while they have allegedly turned off their targeting of each other's cities, maintain many thousands of active nuclear missiles capable of launching in a few minutes our mutual destruction. Reckless talk that inflames tensions between us and this former adversary ignores this grim reality. The nuclear stalemate still exists. We still live under a hair trigger.

It is small comfort for those currently under threat, but true that since the end of World War II, the global death rate due to armed conflict has been [steadily falling](#), meaning that for any random person, the chance of death due to armed conflict is lower now than it has been in at least 70 years. To be sure, some parts of the world are more dangerous than others, and ongoing conflicts in various regions greatly increase the chances of people dying due to ongoing conflicts. A [couple dozen ongoing areas of conflict](#) exist now, some of which are interstate, and a number of which are ethnic and denominational. Still, there is reason to be hopeful. The number [of interstate conflicts has fallen precipitously](#), and global warfare totals have fallen since the end of the Cold War. Systems of resolving and cooling tensions continue to be tried and abided by, including treaties and agreements limiting the spread of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and formalizing relations amongst once warring states and their proxies.

Today, President Obama is in Cuba, a nation that once [nearly led to our first \(and maybe last\) nuclear war as a pawn](#), a proxy for the dangerous showdown between capitalism and communism. Normalizing relations with our

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former enemies, encouraging travel and dialogue, as well as the inevitable spread of ideas of secularism, freedom, and democratic values that follows freedom of travel and speech. While we may not have peace in our time, we will continue to follow that slope if we can avoid the trap of fear and authoritarianism, isolationism, and militarism that feeds off of it, and that closes off the means by which peace can perhaps finally be achieved.

JOIN NOW

From the Florida Council for Science Education

March/2016 The Florida legislative session is mercifully over and the instructional materials bills we've been tracking are history. These ill-conceived bills would have changed the way textbooks and other educational tools are reviewed and selected, handing entirely too much power to well meaning but non-expert parents and not so well meaning, ideologically driven special interest groups. You can learn more about the bills and why there were bad for science education in our [news release](#) and [series of blog posts](#).

According to the [National Center for Science Education](#) this weekend: "We're fortunate and happy that these bad bills didn't get out of the starting gate," Florida Citizens for Science's Brandon Haught told NCSE. "The good thing to come out of this brief fight is that a clear anti-science motivation behind these bills is now documented. The bills' sponsors and supporters aren't likely to give up, though. But we'll be ready, just as we have been for a full ten years now."

I predict that the main cheerleaders for these bills, [Florida Citizens Alliance](#), will be back. They have a sizable network and they visited Tallahassee in person to help round up four co-sponsors on the senate bill and 19 co-sponsors on the house bill. They're worth keeping an eye on.

On the other hand, as I told NCSE, the good thing is that Florida Citizens Alliance handed us all sorts of evidence of their anti-science views, which can be very useful in the future. And we also made some very good friends with other groups opposed to the Alliance's antics.

For more great analysis, see the [Florida Citizens for Science Blog](#).



Wednesday, Apr. 6

USF CWY 206

6:00pm,

reception to follow



***Shakespeare's Adventures
in Advertising***

Douglas Lanier, University of New Hampshire

Advertising, it has been said, is the poetry of consumer capitalism. If that's the case, one of capitalist poetry's favorite and most enduring touchstones has been the works and person of William Shakespeare. "Bard Sell" will offer a short, entertaining history of Shakespeare's many cameo appearances in advertising from the nineteenth century to the present. Those appearances, Professor Lanier will argue, provide us with a composite portrait of changing attitudes toward Shakespeare in popular culture and raise interesting questions about Shakespeare's future prospects in an ever-more crowded mediasphere.

ASK AN ATHEIST

Too embarrassed to ask something you really, really want to know?

Have an idea you'd like to share, but don't want anyone to know from whom it came?

Have an opinion that's out of the norm for your group?

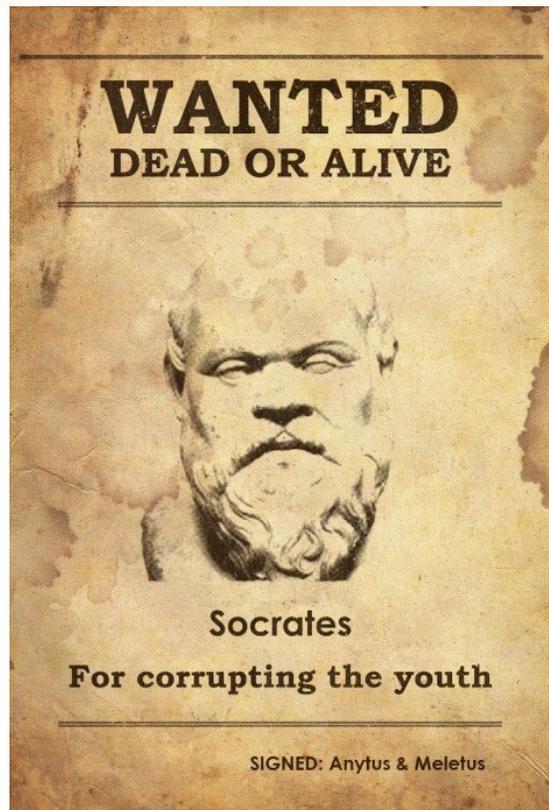
Well, here's your chance to share any or all of those in complete anonymity.

Just go to Aof's [Ask An Atheist](#) page. We do not track any information about you, who you are, your IP address, or anything else. Of course, you will have to check back on the site to see any responses.

Ever wonder what other Florida Freethought groups are doing?



Now you can easily know. Atheists of Florida have a new Calendar: <http://atheistsoffloridainc.org/calendar/> which enables everyone to know what's going on around the entire state.



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



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



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.

In short, we seek full **ECONOMIC EQUALITY** for women.

Florida NOW is dedicated to ensuring economic protections for older women, who are all too often condemned to lives of poverty. We work to eliminate discrimination in pension plans, retirement programs, health insurance plans and social security.

Florida NOW supports public programs to provide early childhood development as well as quality of child care to meet the needs of children of all ages and their parents of all economic backgrounds.

Florida NOW actively supports full rights for homemakers and recognition for the economic value of the vital services they perform.

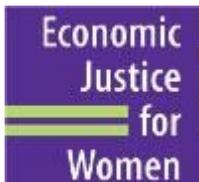
We support legislation and programs reflecting the reality of marriage as an equal economic partnership.

We actively pursue the rights of girls and women to full and equal educational opportunities.

We oppose discrimination or gender segregation.

We are unequivocally committed to equal distribution of financial resources to ensure equal opportunity in sports and recreation for girls and women.

Florida NOW will work toward reversing the feminization of poverty. We urge you to influence placement of more women into policy-making positions within our government, business, education, religion and media institutions. The requirement to teach Women's Herstory in education is essential.



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.

ISIS Crimes Labeled Genocide by State Department



In its global diplomacy and advocacy efforts, the Center for Inquiry fights for the freedom of expression and belief for not just the nonreligious but for all people. Just as the murder and persecution of secularists in Bangladesh has become a prime focus of CFI's efforts, the rights of religious communities to live without fear are no less important. That's why [CFI joined with thirty-seven organizations](#) urging the U.S. State Department to shine a powerful light on the atrocities of the Islamic State against Yazidis, Christians, and Shiites in Iraq and Syria and to name those crimes for what they are: a genocide. CFI was the sole secularist organization to make this plea

On March 17, meeting a deadline set by Congress in December, Secretary of State **John Kerry** unexpectedly [made the declaration](#) that these mass atrocities are indeed genocide. Referring to ISIS by the more derogatory name "Daesh," Sec. Kerry said, "Daesh is genocidal by self-proclamation, by ideology, and by actions – in what it says, what it believes, and what it does. Daesh is also responsible for crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing directed at these same groups and in some cases also against Sunni Muslims, Kurds, and other minorities."

[In our official statement](#) praising this decision, CFI's UN representative, **Michael De Dora**, said, "The international community must put aside theological differences and come together to strongly engage in efforts to defeat the Islamic State, and aid their victims. We applaud Secretary Kerry for doing the right thing, and hope his decision prompts greater collaboration and sincere endeavors to end the Islamic State's genocide against religious minorities."

CFI has also urged President Obama and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to make similar pronouncements. Sent by *R. O'Keefe*

Historic “Gold Cure” for Addiction



By **Joe Nickell**, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI)

In the latter nineteenth century, as temperance and prohibitionist sentiment flourished, quack cures for alcoholism began to be offered, beginning with the Keeley Double Gold Cure in 1890.

Dr. Leslie Keeley (1836–1900) was a graduate of Chicago’s Rush Medical College who served as a surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War. With a chemist and town mayor as partners, he opened a sanitarium at Dwight, Illinois, in 1880 for the treatment of those addicted to alcohol or opium. He offered a proprietary tonic whose secret formula supposedly included bichloride of gold. He also gave hypodermic injections. Ten years later he began to sell franchises that eventually numbered over 200 in North America and also expanded into Europe (“Leslie Keeley” 2016; Fike 2006, 100–101, 208).

As it happened, however, early analysis showed Dr. Keeley’s products contained no gold (Boles 2013, 3–7). Instead, the tonic was nearly 28% alcohol, and contained ammonium chloride, tincture of cinchona (the bark from which quinine is derived), and aloin (a compound obtained from the aloe plant). The injections contained strychnine and boric acid (both otherwise used as insecticides) and atropine (another poison) (“Leslie Keeley” 2016; Boles 2013, 1–11).

Not surprisingly, the result of Dr. Keeley’s medicines was to make patients experience fear, confusion, vomiting, and dizziness, among other ill effects. Since treatments were provided as the patient continued to imbibe—albeit in successively diminished amounts—the result may have been to provide the alcoholic with added incentive to cease his bad habits (Boles 2013, 3). Keeley claimed a ninety-five percent cure rate, and he rationalized that those who returned to drinking did so by choice (“Leslie Keeley” 2016).

Whether Dr. Keeley was an outright quack or simply misguided has been debated—though I would remind readers that the false claim that his medicines contained gold does not enhance his reputation. Nevertheless, his focus on alcohol and other addictions as diseases rather than moral failings, and the use of both group therapy and support groups, made his approach a forerunner to such associations as Alcoholics Anonymous and Secular Organizations for Sobriety (founded in 1985 by CFI’s James Christopher).

An early imitator of Dr. Keeley’s was the McMichael Institute of Niagara Falls, NY, which opened in 1892. Dr. George H. McMichael offered “Double Chloride of Gold Remedies for the Liquor, Morphine & Tobacco Habits” and “Sanitarium Treatment,” the institute was located in the former Dexter Jerauld Mansion near the world-famous falls. (Now attached to the rear of the Niagara Club at 24 Buffalo Avenue at the intersection of First Street, it is largely hidden from view. However, my wife Diana and I visited the site to take the accompanying photograph.) The McMichael Institute vacated the mansion in 1894, consolidating with its headquarters in Buffalo (Boles 2013, 1–3, 13–22; “McMichael Institute” 1893).

There were two other such enterprises in the Falls. One was The Niagara Gold Cure Institute which opened in 1895 in the former luxury hotel, the Prospect Park House. Its physician was Dr. Bill English from Marion, Iowa. The sixty-bed facility accepted women as well as men. The other was the Reliable Gold Cure Institute, located in the Falls Hotel at 312 Main Street). It was a low-budget operation whose ad promised, in Keeley fashion, “Ninety-five percent cured” (Boles 2013, 13–14).

The Niagara Falls gold-cure businesses were relatively short-lived. The Keeley enterprise evolved over the years. The “medicine” drew criticism from some medical practitioners, and the formulas apparently changed over time. So did the “cure” which eventually turned into more of a supportive program. Nevertheless, Keeley died a wealthy man in 1900, and his business survived in a restructured and smaller form until the 1960s (Boles 2013, 47).

References:

Boles, James M. 2013. *The Gold Cure Institute of Niagara Falls*, NY, 1890s. Buffalo, NY: Museum of Disability History. Fike, Richard E. 2006. *The Bottle Book: A Comprehensive Guide to Historic, Embossed Medicine Bottles*. Caldwell, NJ: The Blackburn Press. Leslie Keeley. 2015. Online at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie_Keeley; accessed March 9, 2016. McMichael Institute. 1893. Ad in *Illustrated Buffalo Express*, reproduced in Boles 2013, 18.

Source: http://bit.ly/Nickell_03-18

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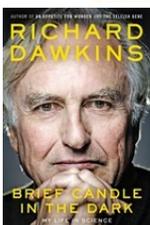
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www.evolvetampa.com



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. A service of AHA.



Tampa Bay Coalition – April, 2016 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://www.tampabaycor.org/>



04-02 & 24	TAMPA BAY AREA– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	
04-02, Saturday, 2 PM	CLEARWATER & DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists	
04-06, 12, 21, & 26 @ 6 PM Lectures & receptions	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many great events and calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary!	
04-06, 12, 21, 26, days vary, 6 PM	TAMPA – Center for Inquiry	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
04-08 & 16 at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
04-16, Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
04-17, Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists See Page 7 for more.	
04-17, Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Social, with Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP : http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
04-17, Sunday, 5 PM	Largo Monthly Social dinner Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	See page 3 or, http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists	
04-18, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers	
04-23, Saturday, 10:30 AM; <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 12 <i>paid-up</i> CFI members. RSVP is required. http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
04-25, Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required. Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members.</i> http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
04-27 Monday, 5 PM	Clearwater, FL 300 S Duncan Ave, 33755	Doc's Cafe Much ado about everything http://tampa-bay.org/ calendar/	
7 p.m. 2 nd Wednesday & 9:30 a.m. 4 th Sunday	TEMPLE TERRACE– UU Tampa Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UU-TPA_Humanists-Calendar <i>Verify a mtg. before attending.</i>	
Every 4 th Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	
Every Tuesday 11:30 AM, work & social; video production 7 PM	CLEARWATER & S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida , Inc.	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	

For March 16-20, 2017:

2017 Freethought Cruise with Hemant Mehta

<https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/>

