



# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 11 November 2013 Jim Peterson,

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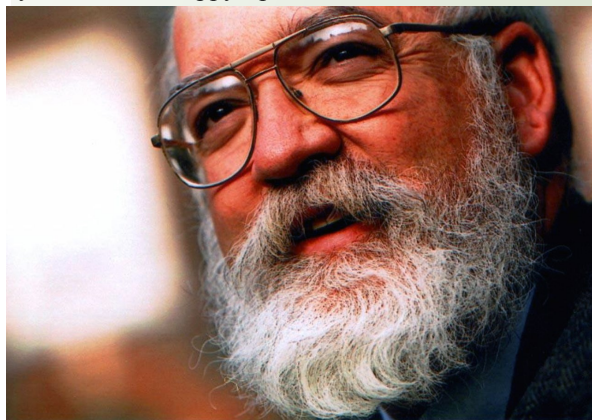
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## Winterfest



Coming on Saturday December 7th, our annual celebration of Freethought, Atheism, Humanism, Secularism, and all things and people associated with the movement toward the free mind. Like last year, it will be a potluck, at the social hall of the Clearwater Unitarian Universalists, and graciously hosted by our Humanist friends there. It will start around 5 pm and go to around 7, and will be delicious! The company needless to say, will be fantastic. Below is the food schedule: If your last name begins with A to F: bring a Starch or veggie. If it starts with G to L, bring a Main Dish. If it starts with M to R: a dessert. S to Z: salad. Last year over 125 happy Epicureans came. Join us!



## Daniel Dennett

One of our most important living philosophers, **Dan Dennett** is best known for his provocative and controversial arguments.

**Dr. Dennett, is scheduled to be TBCoR's keynote speaker at Clearwater on Darwin Day- February 8th 2014 . Tickets @ \$30 will be on sale soon at many of our constituent organizations. Get yours now for the best pricing.**



## The Humanists of Florida Association presents



On November 2nd and 3rd, you can be among the expectant Floridians from all over the state who will be converging on Orlando for the Florida Freethought 2013 Conference.

Speakers include: Various Florida group leaders, an SSA panel with Florida students, **James Randi, Dale McGowan, Dave Silverman, Seth Andrews, Nate Phelps, Jerry Dewitt, Darrel Ray, Sarah Morehead, Jennifer Hancock, Bridgett Crutchfield, Teresa MacBain, Dan Fincke, and Alix Jules.**

### Hear the Sunday Keynote by Dale McGowan *The Heart of Humanism*

*Humanists have always been generous and compassionate. But until recently, the organized freethought community has been focused mainly on ideas and activism, while our generosity and compassion took place on the individual level, separate from our identity as humanists. A sea change in the movement is now making compassionate humanism a bigger part of what we do together as a community, and in the process, changing the way we look at ourselves and our worldview.*

For prices and registration click here: <http://floridahumanist.org/registration/>  
Venue and hotel information can be found here: <http://floridahumanist.org/venue-hotel/>



**HUMANIST  
CHARITIES**  
[Click to connect!](#)

## Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – November, 2013 Calendar

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

11-2, 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday, 2 PM	<b>CLEARWATER</b> – The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: <b>See page 3</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/">http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/</a>
11 10, Sunday, 1:30 PM	<b>S TAMPA</b> – Atheists of Florida–Tampa Chapter	Details & to <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/</a>
11-10, Sunday, 7 PM	<b>BRANDON</b> – Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/</a>
11-18, Monday, 7 PM	<b>NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD</b> – Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. <b>RSVP at Web site:</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/</a>
11-16, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 10:30 AM	<b>TAMPA</b> – Town & Country Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic and map: see page 5 <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/">http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/</a>
11-17 Sunday, P.M	<b>CLEARWATER</b> Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Social Dinner. See <a href="#">page 4</a> for details. RSVP
11-17, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 11AM	<b>BRANDON</b> CFI Sunday Mixer	Lunch & discussion. Click to <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>
11-30, 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:30 AM	<b>NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE</b> – Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. <b>RSVP</b> Details: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>
11-, Every last Monday, 6 PM	<b>N. Pinellas Area</b> CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	<b>RSVP is required</b> if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click <a href="#">here</a> <i>before noon, Oct 26</i> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>
11 - TBA, see <a href="#">Web site</a>	<b>S. PINELLAS</b> – Humanist film Meetup	Feature film TBA RSVP at: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/</a>
11-20, Sunday, 12:30 PM	<b>CLEARWATER</b> – UU Humanists,	Linda Darin of NOW-Tampa will be speaking
TBA	<b>TAMPA</b> Tampa Bay Skeptics	Tampa Bay Skeptics Check for activity at Web site <a href="http://TampaBaySkeptics.org/">http://TampaBaySkeptics.org/</a>
see <a href="#">Web site</a>	<b>BRADENTON</b> - Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa">/www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa</a> October: Disney in Orlando. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/">https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/</a>
see <a href="#">Web site</a>	<b>SARASOTA</b> – Humanists of Sarasota Bay	Many events: Details: <a href="#">Web site</a> <a href="http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html">http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html</a>
TBA Monthly	<b>TAMPA</b> - Café Philo, Philosophical Discussion Group.	See <a href="#">Website</a> : <a href="http://www.philotampa.org">www.philotampa.org</a> for all details.



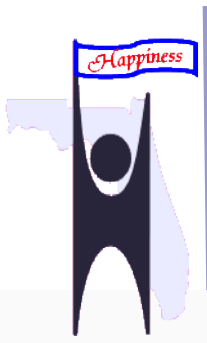
*Organizers of these events will be most grateful to all who have the courtesy to RSVP for those events that require it.*

### Watch for Big COR events coming up!

December 7th - **Winterfest** -  Celebration : a potluck at Clearwater UUC

February 8th, 2014 - **Darwin Day** with Special Guest Daniel Dennett, one of America's leading intellectuals.





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

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

Volume 21 No. 11 November, 2013

## Wrapped in the Flag

For November, we will hear from author, **Clair Conner** on the imminent danger of right wing extremism. In her new book, *Wrapped in the Flag*, she discusses her family's history of involvement with the birth of the radical John Birch Society. Her story provides a unique insight into our country's political culture.



Published by Beacon Press, *Wrapped in the Flag* chronicles the radical right wing world of the 1960s when conspiracy ruled and the John Birch Society made national headlines. The daughter of a John Birch Society leader, Claire introduces us to the extreme ideas of a powerful political fringe group dispensing radical solutions to America's problems.

Birchers fought civil rights, labor unions, environmental protections, Medicare, welfare programs, the United Nations and even water fluoridation. Today, the society continues many of those campaigns from its national headquarters in Appleton, Wisconsin. Get a copy at [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), or [IndieBound](#)

**Claire Conner's intimate account—based on records, documents and her firsthand knowledge—takes us deep inside one of the most radical right-wing movements in U.S. history.**

Moving seamlessly between memoir and history, humor and pain, past and present, *Wrapped in the Flag* serves up keen insight into the impact of extremism on one woman, her family and, if unchecked, on our country. Clair will autograph books if you bring them in.



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

An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. As reactionaries in congress vote to cut the budget for food stamps and other key supports, there is increasing hunger here in our community. Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food (before the expiration dates) or checks for TBH. Thanks to *Glenn Paul*, chair

## Tampa Bay Harvest

If all the atheists left the USA, it would lose 93% of the National Academy of Sciences but less than 1% of the prison population.

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MIND AND BRAIN

Your mind is where you think  
Your brain is where it's at

The mind take trips in space  
Your brain stays under your hat

Your mind can keep real cool  
While the brain is putting out heat

A mind's made up of ideas  
The brain is mostly meat

Brain waves run on electricity  
They say thought travels by train

Lots if people lose their minds  
One seldom loses his brain.

Patricia Walters '76



Please join us for  
our next free and  
open discussion.

**Saturday,  
November  
2nd.**

**at 2 PM:  
Clearwater  
Countryside Library  
2741 State Rd. 580  
Clearwater, FL 33761**

Following our  
meeting, many of us  
will dine and argue  
together at the  
Greek City Cafe,

We are all dismayed to learn that Glenn & Kay Paul lost their son, Douglas, to an unexpected heart attack.

He was 53 and died on the east coast. As a young man, he showed great promise, his too early demise forecloses on that promise. He is mourned by his family and friends. We send our heart felt condolences to Glenn and Kay.

Ω



*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

# Ivory Mandarin

**Sunday November 17th, 2012 at 5:00PM.**

The restaurant is located at **2192 Main St. (S.R.580), Dunedin, FL 34698** (in Coastal Plaza, 1/4 miles West of Countryside Mall)

Phone: (727) 734-3998 A wide variety of choices. The prices begin at \$8+. The company is fabulous!

Please reserve your place at the table by November 16th with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com)

## Laugh Lines

11-13

When the white missionaries came to Africa , they had the Bible and we had the land. They said, 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land.  
~ Desmond Tutu

America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real, but the moon landing was faked.  
~ David Letterman

I've been married to a communist and a fascist, and neither would take out the garbage.  
~ Zsa Zsa Gabor

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.  
~ Prince Philip

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.  
~ Harrison Ford

Lawyers believe that a man is innocent until proven broke.  
~ Robin Hall

Thanks to: *Connie Purdum*

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

### Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

**Lois Fries, Secretary**  
**Anita Garcia**  
**Dave Kovar, Vice President**  
**Beth Maxie**  
**Jim Peterson, President**  
**Frank Prah**  
**Marios Psomas, treasurer**  
**Jordan Williams**  
**Emeritus members:** Terry Eckstien,  
Steve Brown, Jon Green, Mark Kligman,  
Jerry Moore, Mark Winterbottom,  
Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn  
Paul, Don Acenbrach Dec., Jackie  
Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,  
Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

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



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



7606 Paula Dr., Suite 120  
Tampa, FL 33615-4116  
813-273-3652

## Tampa Humanist Association



**Saturday, November 16th, 2013, 11:00 PM**

Look for the Tampa Humanist Assoc. sign in the ground floor lobby. Because the space at the Jimmie B. Keele Library continues to be unavailable due to construction for the next several months or so, we will meet at the **Town & Country Library** on, November 16th at 10:30 til 12:30. We will be in **Community Room A** on the first floor next to the bookstore. The library is at **7606 Paula Dr., Suite 120 Tampa, FL 33615-4116 PH. 813-273-3652** [MAP](#)

Our topic: **Humanism for an Age of Scarcity**

We have every reason to believe that the future will be as unlike the past as if a foreign country. It will be a challenging journey, and once arrived, there may be little chance for respite. What is the Humanist approach to a hostile world with too many people and too few resources? Or is this assessment too extreme? JP.



## Celebrate Human Light

This December...



HumanLight illuminates Humanism's positive secular vision of reason, compassion and hope, as each of 3 candles symbolizes. The goal is to bring a future in which all people can identify with each other, behave with the highest moral standards, and work together toward a happy, just and peaceful world. Festivities include standard winter holiday traditions, incorporating the values of education, equality, unity and good will. The Yule tree is replaced with the Tree of Knowledge. Science shows, storytelling, donating to food banks, volunteering, and dinner with family and friends are part of the celebration throughout the world. This video shows ways to celebrate reason, compassion and hope during Humanlight:

## Life Ring Secular Recovery

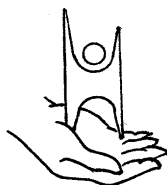
This group meets every Monday evening at 8p.m., at Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church at 2817 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater. The meeting takes place in a modular building at the back of the parking lot.

This is a recovery support group for alcoholics and drug addicts who do not believe in, or feel comfortable with, the idea of a higher power as strongly encouraged in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have any questions, feel free to call 727-772-3360.

## A Humanist Helping Hand

Several members have formed a caring response team to help members of our Humanist family who may need supportive practical help. This is an independent group, not affiliated directly with the Humanist Society. But their efforts are wholly consistent with the Humanist outlook. Contact a helper below if you or another member needs help or wishes to participate.

- ◆ Terri Eckstien (813) 891-9399
- ◆ Jerry Moore (727) 455-4973
- ◆ Nan Owens (727) 424-2558



~ **Join** ~

*The Humanist Society  
of the Suncoast.*

### Annual Dues

\_ Trial -3 month- free news

\_ **Regular -\$25.**

\_ Reg. Couple -\$30.

\_ **Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin)**

\_ Life -\$200.

\_ Life Couple -\$250.

\_ Associate -\$10.

\_ Contribution for growth

**New!**



*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 to:*

**Glenn Paul, Asst. Treasurer  
Humanist Society of the Suncoast  
2507 First St. #E  
Indian Rocks Beach  
33785-3010**

## Humanist Quotes

“Reason, Observation and Experience – the Holy Trinity of Science – have taught us that happiness is the only good; that the time to be happy is now, and the way to be happy is to make others so.”

– Robert Green Ingersoll, *The Gods*, 1876



# Atheists of Florida



*Atheism sprinting into the future!*

Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Ed Golly  
Vice President, Frank Prahl, Treasurer, Nan Owens

**AoF outreach programs** can be found at our [Meetup](#) site. Current newsletters are **available**: Write [Athaifle@aol.com](mailto:Athaifle@aol.com). 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](#). Our first meeting of every quarter (Jan., April, July, October) is a potluck; the address information is available only to members of our [Meetup](#) since it is usually in a private home.

## November

Join us on Nov 10th, 1:30pm at 5103 S West Shore Blvd, Tampa, to meet **Jim Young**. He will be speaking to us on "**How to be an Activist**". While he now lives in Costa Rica, Jim was an active member in Tampa for many years. He will speak about his experiences here and in Costa Rica.

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.

Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts ( audio & video) in the offing very soon. 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. At the same time, 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.

As an institution committed to bring the enormously prolific benefits of the atheist proposition to ever larger numbers of our citizens, we desire to enable an enlightened majority of truly free people to turn their intelligence toward the real problems we all must face.

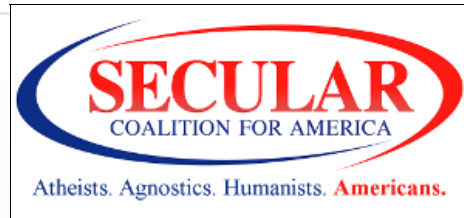


**Bank of Wisdom**  
*Electronic publishing to make the world better*

6

These Rare Books are Amazing, and only a penny a page. Bank of Wisdom is listing thousands of Rare and Suppressed books in PDF format. These eBooks have a picture of every page so exact reliability is maintained. Yet these eBooks can be Searched and the Cut-and-Paste feature is active, these books can be used for scholarly research, and quoted by page and paragraph, just like the actual book. And for the casual reader there is no end of amazing and interesting facts and ideas that will enlighten, educate, astound, and elevate your view of History and the World. Most important we specialize in books to un-brainwash. The cost of most PDF instant downloads is \$.01 per page. (\$1.00 per hundred page book.) Set up your account here:

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



## National Secular Movement Update

The Secular Coalition for America has announced a strategic partnership between the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science U.S. and top leadership of the Secular Coalition for America, through the remainder of 2013. The partnership aims to maximize the strengths of both organizations-drawing on the Secular Coalition's strong nonprofit and strategic planning experience and the Dawkins Foundation's strong web and social media savvy, scientific expertise, and broad outreach. For more information about this exciting new partnership, [click here](#). Tune in for the best 30 minutes in secularism! Call in every Thursday at 12:00 pm EST to get all the latest news in our movement from the movers and shakers themselves.



**Freethinkers@USF in Tampa** is a multicultural, inter-disciplinary student society which welcomes USF students who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, skeptics, free-thinkers, 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 personal beliefs. Write Rodrick Colbert or [freethinkersusf@gmail.com](mailto:freethinkersusf@gmail.com).



# 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](mailto:bnorsworthy@verizon.net) Mark Brandt [mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu) Web site: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)

UU Humanists will have their monthly meeting on November 17, Sunday at 12:30PM. A special program will be presented by UU interim minister, Tony Johnson in the Octagon at Unitarian-Universalists of Clearwater on 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater.



Clearwater, Florida



## 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 (NOW) is in strong opposition to the Personhood Amendment ballot initiative for which the organization Personhood Florida is currently collecting signatures, according to Florida NOW president Donna Slutiak. "This amendment is ridiculous and an insult to women," Slutiak said. "The issue of Personhood would have very far reaching results, and would do more than criminalize abortion; it would also make birth control pills and the IUD illegal in the state of Florida. The amendment states that human life begins at the time when an egg is fertilized, which will also impact in-vitro-fertilization clinics. How would you like your mother's fertilized eggs that are sitting in a clinic freezer to have inheritance rights? Do you want to have to go underground to get your birth control pills?" Florida NOW expects all intelligent people to pledge not to sign this initiative, and to vote against it, if by some fluke it does get on the ballot. Personhood is bad for womanhood."

**"...being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead."**  
*Kurt Vonnegut*  
Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association

# FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU Supporter,

Now that the standoff that gridlocked Capitol Hill has passed, it's time for our leaders to return their attention to a crisis that is impacting hundreds of thousands here in Florida and millions more across the country. That crisis is a broken immigration system that hurts economic opportunity, breaks families apart, and forces too many to live in the shadows.



[See our interactive report, Florida Voices for Immigration Reform, for firsthand stories from this civil liberties crisis in our state.](#) The report is more than just facts and figures. It's a collection of true, personal, often heartbreaking stories about how our current, broken immigration system is failing Florida.

**People Over Politics**



The **Humanities Institute of USF** is excited to share our Fall 2013 [newsletter and calendar](#) of events. Inside you can read about our incredible lineup for this semester including: An evening lecture by **Lawrence Krauss** on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> as part of our



focus on "Science and Society." Krauss is a leading cosmologist and Foundation Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration and Inaugural Director of the Origins Project at Arizona State University. He also costars with Richard Dawkins in the upcoming film, *The Unbelievers*.

**Secular Coalition for America** President, David Niose Wednesday presented [oral arguments](#) to the Massachusetts Supreme Court, as the attorney for the plaintiff in the case "Doe v. Acton-Boxborough Regional School District." The case challenges a state law that requires daily school-sponsored and teacher-led classroom recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Niose, on behalf of his client, argued that the wording "under God" in the Pledge discriminates against atheists and other nonbelievers, by instilling and defining patriotism according to a god belief.



# Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

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



TBPCC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

Click [www.tampabaypostcarbon.com](http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com) for more. 10/13

## ***Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area***

Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area:

Americans United,\* Tampa Humanist Association, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Center for Inquiry, UU Humanists Clearwater, UU Humanists Tampa,\* Secular Student Alliance USF,\* Atheists of Florida, Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought ideas and principles. (\*= not currently members of the Coalition)

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

**Calendar:**  
Rick O'Keefe

**Newsletter:**  
Jim Peterson

**Web site:**  
Jim Peterson

**Special Projects**  
Mark Brandt

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activists have won some important battles in the fight for Florida's clean energy future. It's a fight that has often pitted Florida's families against Big Coal, utility companies, lobbyists -- and even Gov. Richard 'Rick' L. Scott. **Now that fight's about to get a lot bigger.**

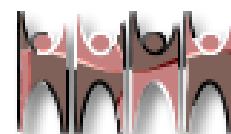
President Obama has made tackling **climate-destroying carbon pollution** a priority. As the EPA works to develop strong and just new safeguards protecting us from carbon pollution, they'll be counting on people in states like Florida to help decide the best approach.

**[Tell Gov. Scott and the EPA that the fight to protect our families, our communities, and our economy from climate disruption has to start with strong and just standards against carbon pollution.](#)**

Our nation's aging coal plants are some of the biggest contributors of climate-destroying carbon pollution, as well as toxic waste like mercury, soot, ash, and heavy metals that are harmful even in tiny concentrations. And we can't give a free pass to natural gas -- more gas in the electricity sector just means more pollution. We need strong standards that limit pollution from coal **and** natural gas-fired power plants, and we need a commitment to true clean energy like wind and solar. Activists like you have shown time and again that Florida is ready to take those steps, **even if Gov. Scott refuses to take action.**

Already the big polluters are getting organized. They'll try to use their insider influence to continue their free ride. But we can't let their lobbyists and allies -- like Gov. Scott -- drown out the people of Florida who want true action on climate.

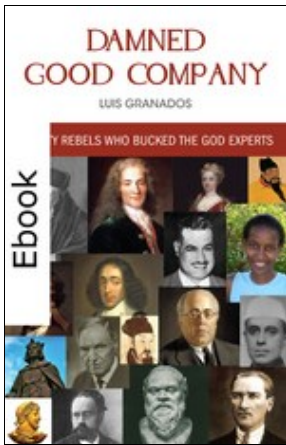
**[Make sure Florida is on the right side of the climate fight. Tell Gov. Scott and the EPA that Florida wants strong standards against carbon pollution, for the sake of our families, our state, and our future!](#)**



The Florida Sierra Club



# The Humanist Press



## Damned Good Company By Luis Granados

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

## The Philosophy of Humanism - Dr. Corliss Lamont

In a work that is a standard text and reference in the ongoing international discussion around secular humanism, Lamont offers an argument for a philosophy that advocates for happiness in this life rather than hope for an undefined afterlife. Paperback, 371 pages. \$16.95

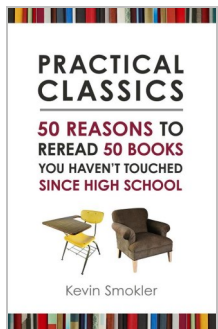


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## Prometheus Press

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

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

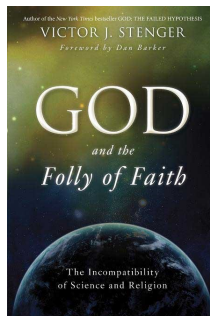
\$18.00 Paperback, 320 pages. [Order here:](#)

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

By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.

The story of the fight against superstition has been told before, but never like this. Victor Stenger confronts the battle between religious superstition and science with the eye of a trained physicist and the practicality of a superb teacher.

409 pages, Paperback, \$20.00 [Order here](#)



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

## Latest books from the Matt Cooper 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](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com). Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!**

### TITLE

1. The Expanding Circle
2. In Gods we Trust
3. Why Evolution is True
4. The Second World
5. Denialism
6. The Selfish Gene
7. Democracy Incorporated
8. The Upside Irrationality
9. The End of Growth
10. The God Delusion
11. All That We Share
12. Sex, Time, and Power
13. Sex at Dawn
14. What liberal Media
15. The End of Faith
16. Plan B
17. The Portable Atheist
18. Open Society
19. Non Believer Nation
20. God on Trial
21. Natural Experiments of History
22. The Missionary Position
23. Life Inc.
24. A brief History of Time
25. Breaking the Spell
26. The Philosophy of Humanism
27. The Quotable Atheist
28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God. G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About Rest of World. Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
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

### AUTHOR

Peter Singer  
Scott Atran  
Jerry Coyne  
Panag Khanna  
Michael Specter  
Richard Dawkins  
Sheldon Wolin  
Dan Ariely  
Richard Heinberg  
Richard Dawkins  
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Alexa KcKearing  
David Stamos  
Michael Shermer  
David Snick  
Warren Buffett  
Sam Harris  
Michael Shermer  
Steven Jay Gould  
Francis Fukuyama

### **NEW!**

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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. Me of little Faith          | Lewis Black           |
- And More...

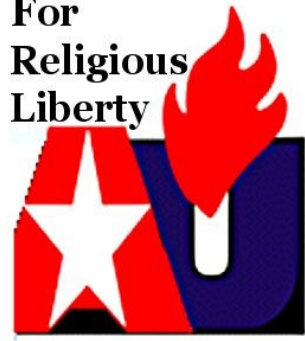
### **Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants**

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

[Virginia Kohl-Lieberman](#), AHA certified

A Tradition of Advocacy

For  
Religious  
Liberty



Americans United for Separation of  
Church & State  
~ Pinellas County Chapter ~

We regret to note that the chapter has now closed. But there is still a need for an active chapter of this outstanding organization in the Tampa Bay area. If you want to help build one, Email [AU national](mailto:AU.national), or check the web at <http://www.au.org/> Let us know if help needed.



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

**The Military Association of  
Atheists and Freethinkers**



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

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

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

Contact: Chris

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

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

## Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

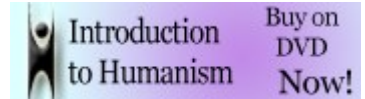
Jennifer is author of several books including; *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP  
See much more at: [www.Jen-Hancock.com](http://www.Jen-Hancock.com),

**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 at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa/>

## Neuroscience and Humanism



Did you know you are your connectome? Your connectome - according to neuroscientist Sebastian Seung - is how your brain's cells connect and talk to one another. This essentially means that conscious experience is both a product of nature and nurture. No surprise there. See Sebastian's wonderful Ted Talk [here](#).

The study of neuroscience is of great interest to most humanists. Not just because we are intellectual geeks who love to learn geeky new sciency things. But also because our brains is where most of our thinking happens. (Most because our neurobiology is actually spread out around our bodies and that impacts our thinking as well. Check out this [article on how the vagina and the brain conspire to create consciousness](#)) And yes, I'm betting that pretty much all of you will click on that link.

The reason neuroscience is so interesting to me is because it cuts to the heart of what it is to be human. Our ability to think, feel, experience and be conscious is both a function of and dependent on our neurology. If it turns out that consciousness is an illusion, does that mean we have no free will? And if we have no free will, how can a philosophy, like Humanism which is dependent upon us having free will, claim to have anything useful to say about how we should try to behave?

Adam Gopnik of The New Yorker, reviewed several neurology books on this topic - see this [site](#). It's a delightful read to catch up on what has been going on and the debates about free will that are occurring within the field of neurology. But I'm mostly referring you to it because Adam concludes that Humanism has nothing to fear from the demystification of the brain. Here is a quote from the article:

"Humanism not only has survived each of these sequential demystifications; they have made it stronger by demonstrating the power of rational inquiry on which humanism depends. Every time the world becomes less mysterious, nature becomes less frightening, and the power of the mind to grasp reality more sure. A constant reduction of mystery to matter, a belief that we can name natural rules we didn't make—that isn't scientism. That's science."

I don't know about you but I get excited whenever I see someone talking about Humanism in a major magazine especially when the topic is so relevant to our concerns as Humanists. Enjoy.

*Jennifer Hancock*





No Local chapters. See <http://www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.net/>

ISHV has great interest in promoting good science and ethical values worldwide. To that end, we have forged strong bonds with humanist leaders and organizations in several nations. For humanists in developing nations, we have offered technical expertise by providing them with Websites. We have made literature and speakers available to them, publicized their events on our Website, helped them raise funding, etc. Members of our leadership team have traveled to Paris, Moscow, Ontario, Manila, and Africa to lecture on the philosophy of secular humanism and present a vigorous defense of science. We currently have global affiliates around the world in locations such as Tanzania, London, Iceland, Nigeria, Philippines, Gambia, the Caribbean, South Africa, Indonesia, Afghanistan, and India.

One of our most important international contacts has been one we have established with Leo Igwe, Africa's leading humanist activist. Igwe has tirelessly fought against superstition, homophobia, sexism and other forms of intolerance. He has defended children that have been victimized by faith healers, witch hunters and other religious fanatics. ISHV has helped raise funding for Igwe's education and research in Germany. Part of his work includes research into witchcraft beliefs and practices in Africa.



## ● [AHLC News](#)

- [Use of Christian University's Chapel for Public Elementary School Graduation Results in Lawsuit](#)  
*September 11, 2013* – The AHLC has filed suit in US District Court to stop a South Carolina public elementary school from continuing to hold graduation ceremonies in a Christian university's chapel.
- [Lawsuit Against "Under God" Heard By Massachusetts High Court](#)  
*September 4, 2013* – The AHLC represents a Massachusetts family as they object to the required daily assertion in public schools via the Pledge of Allegiance that the nation is "under God."
- [Humanists Challenge Forced "So Help Me God" in Air Force Oath](#)

*August 6, 2013* – Following an AHLC letter to Maxwell AFB in Alabama, Air Force officials have agreed to administer a secular oath and to allow a revision removing "so help me God" of the written oath an officer trainee was required to sign.

## Find out more about end of life issues.

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

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

[www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org)



## FASCINATION and FEAR: American Pop Culture and the Black Masculine Fetish

Dr. Jonathan Gayles offers a critical examination of the representation of Black masculinity in popular culture, considering historical narratives that frame the Black masculine body and Black men themselves. He explores "the dilemma represented by the articulation of the Black masculine body as mythically powerful and concurrently threatening, menacing and dangerous."

Dr. Gayles is a 2002 USF doctoral graduate in Applied Anthropology. He is Associate Professor of African-American Studies and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Learning in the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia State University. His research has appeared in numerous journals, and in 2012, his documentary film, *White Scripts and Black Supermen: Black Masculinities in Comic Books*, was named winner of the Peter C. Rollins Award for Best Documentary Film in Popular and American Culture by the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association.

As USF celebrates Homecoming Week, we invite you to join us as we welcome Dr. Gayles back home.

Presented by  
**JONATHAN GAYLES, PH.D.**

**OCTOBER 24**  
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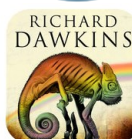
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Choice & Care at the End of Life.



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Department of Anthropology and  
the Anthropology Alumni Society





By: *Mark W. Brandt*



My worldview of Humanism/Atheism/Free thought is a three legged stool. It consists of (1) philosophy and logic, (2) science (several disciplines), and (3) history and historical evidence (both what we know and what's missing). The argument in this mildly quirky, home brewed essay will be from the philosophy/logic aspect of my worldview.

All arguments and views require some assumptions. The first assumption made is that if an omniscient, omnipotent, providential, interventional and loving deity did exist, then all of the sentient population on earth would accept this deity and follow the edicts of him/her/it (hereinafter referred to as sheit, a combination of all three pronouns). The God of the Jews, Christians and Muslims is claimed by all three religions to embody this perfect and complete deity. The converse assumption is that such a perfect and complete deity who wants us to know sheit does not exist. Could there be a deity or deities less than perfect or complete? I suppose so, but that's an argument or essay for another day.

What we now know of the cosmos is that planet earth revolves around an average star (no, that is not an oxymoron) in one of the pinwheel bands of the Milky Way galaxy. There are hundreds of billions of stars in our galaxy, and we're now finding any number of planets among those stars, and most probably among the stars of other galaxies.

We know from any number of sources (e.g. the TV show, "Through the Wormhole" and many other science sources) that there are literally billions of galaxies in the universe, each harboring billions of stars. And each star most probably has a number of planets and other types of satellites revolving around it. Thus, it's safe to conjecture that there are trillions and trillions of planets in the cosmos, a number much too large to comprehend. The expanse of the known universe, since the Big Bang, or whatever natural phenomenon may have started our physical universe, may arguably be as large as 47 billion light years.

What are we to make of the ineffable vastness of the cosmos and the nearly infinite numbers of galaxies, stars, planets and other material? For me, the immensity of the universe clearly implies our human insignificance. Our entire planet is smaller than a quark in a proton in the nucleus of an atom of carbon that's embedded in the world's largest coal deposit. That analogy may be hyperbole, or maybe "hypobole", but seven plus billion of us reside on this speck of matter, just like the "Who's" in Dr. Seuss's tale.

And yet, the complete and perfect creator of the cosmos has never had the allegiance of the majority of human inhabitants on planet earth, this unremarkable speck of dust in the hinterlands of the cosmos. Recent figures state that there are about two billion Christians, one billion Muslims, and maybe twelve million or so Jews in the world. Now many of the folks counted as adherents of the three monotheisms clearly have eschewed their faith tradition, or are RINO's, Religionists in Name Only, to borrow a phrase. But even if we take the figures just presented and inflate them by 10% for argument's sake, we're talking about 3.325 billion people, give or take a few million. With a world population of over seven billion, the omnipotent creator still hasn't convinced a majority to believe in sheit.

It's been this way throughout recorded history. Let's take a young earth creationist look at our history. Bishop Ussher of Dublin computed, based upon his reading of the Bible, that the world began in 4004 B.C.E., or 6017 years ago (Y.A.). The question then becomes what percentage of the world's population has historically believed in sheit. I really have no factual evidence on this issue, but I think it's safe to say that it was an infinitesimally small percentage from 6017 Y.A. to approximately 1688 Y.A. (about 325 C.E. if my math is correct).

Why didn't sheit, who loves us and wants us to know and love her/him/it, make himself/herself/itself known to the Chinese and Japanese living 4000 or 2000, or even 600 Y.A.? Why wasn't sheit revealed to Amazonians or Inuit Indians living at the same time? And the aborigines of Australia and the barbarians of Northern Europe: why weren't they clued in?

It is inconceivable to me that any deity who created the Universe can't clearly, unequivocally and irrefragably make himself/herself/itself known to all of sheit's creation on this speck of dust (or quark, if you prefer). I would draw the history of the three western monotheistic adherents as a percentage of world population as follows:

According to the Bible, in the beginning, Adam and Eve and their incestuous children represented all of the World's population. But sometime shortly thereafter even the young earth creationists would be required to admit the vast majority of the spreading world's population came to reject the Judaic deity for the myriad of tribal gods and spirits that archeologists, anthropologists and other social scientists have catalogued. Even accepting the ludicrous "history" of the Pentateuch and biblical literalists, the loss of Judaic adherents would have had to be sudden, dramatic and overwhelming. There are many debatable points in this essay, but that's what it is, an essay, with no pretensions to any type of rigor.

Accepting arguendo, the young earth creationist position that the earth was created only 6017 Years Ago, there may have been a thin line of Judaism among the world's population. In actual fact, there really is no evidence of which I'm aware that there were adherents to Judaism until well after 6017 Y.A.

With the advent of Christianity, the number of monotheistic adherents began to grow, slowly for a couple of centuries, and then more rapidly after the Emperor Constantine proclaimed Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century. At the Council of Nicea in 325 C.E. when the Christ figure was elevated to one of the three emanations of the godhead, Christianity was given a powerful boost. With the birth of Islam in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, adherence to any one of the three monotheisms spread among the world's population even more rapidly. But, with all of that, the combined total of all three religions appears always to have been a minority of the population on this tiny speck of dust at any given point in time. And I would conjecture that those subscribing to a strong Christian or Judaic view, at least in the secular west, are actually decreasing.

Based upon the previous arguments, and the scientifically demonstrated fact that homo sapiens have existed for well over 100,000 years, it is clear that, in truth, there were no monotheistically inclined religionists, at least of the current three, for well over 94,000 years of human existence. For the reasons stated above, the argument for the deity at the heart of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam abjectly fails the test of universality.





## THE COMMON MORAL DECENCIES

**PERSONAL INTEGRITY:** TELLING TRUTH, BEING SINCERE, KEEPING PROMISES, BEING HONEST.

**TRUSTWORTHINESS:** LOYAL, DEPENDABLE, RELIABLE, RESPONSIBLE.

**BENEVOLENCE:** GOODWILL, LACK OF MALICE (DO NOT HARM OTHER PERSONS; DO NOT KILL OR ROB, INFLICT INJURY, BE CRUEL OR VENGEFUL); IN SEXUAL RELATIONS: MUTUAL CONSENT (BETWEEN ADULTS ONLY); **BENEFICENT:** SYMPATHETIC AND COMPASSIONATE, LEND A HELPING HAND, CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE WELFARE OF OTHERS.

**FAIRNESS:** ACCOUNTABILITY, GRATITUDE, JUSTICE (EQUALITY), TOLERANCE OF OTHERS, COOPERATION, NEGOTIATE DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY, WITHOUT HATRED OR VIOLENCE.



*Rick O'Keefe*

## THE ETHICAL EXCELLENCES

**AUTONOMY INTELLIGENCE SELF-DISCIPLINE SELF-RESPECT CREATIVITY HIGH MOTIVATION AFFIRMATIVE ATTITUDE**

**JOIE DE VIVRE GOOD HEALTH EXUBERANCE**

Secular Humanists base their lives on ethics, reason, and enjoying the good life. We live once and do our best to leave the world a better place than we find it.

The Center for Inquiry is a transnational nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that encourages evidence-based inquiry into science, pseudoscience, medicine and health, religion, ethics, secularism, and society. The Center provides rational ethical alternatives to the reigning paranormal and religious systems of belief, and develops communities where like-minded individuals can meet and share experiences. See Calendar on page 2 for CFI events.



## 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**.

CFI c/o O'Keefe, 4011 S. Manhattan Ave., Box 139, Tampa, FL 33611-1277  
Or click to simply join our **TBS e-mail list(s)**? Or order **TBS T-shirts**?



**Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.**  
Sarasota, Florida

## Calendar of Upcoming main events:

**November 4:** Charles Shugg, Brigadier General, USAF, Retired, COO Sylint Group-- Understanding cyberspace and its implications for society

**December 2:** Barbara Zdrevecky, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood—The status of women's reproductive rights

**January 6:** Mote Marine Presentation

**February 3:** Jeremy Wallace, Political Correspondent for the Sarasota Herald Tribune—Update on the legislative session and the bills before it

**March 3:** Dr. Douglas Chismar, Professor, Ringling College of Art and Design—Dangerous Ideas

**April 7:** Humanist Panel—Composed of members from HUSBAY regarding the Nature of Humanism.

For more detailed information, see the HusBay website: <http://sarasota.humanists.net/index.htm>

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the Humane use of technology.

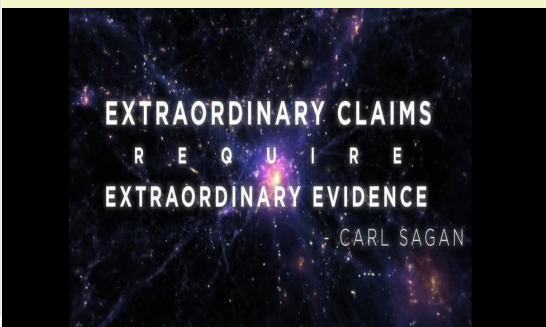
And always, there is the occasional random act of Kindness.

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](http://www.tampa-bay.org)

**We repair our members computers!**





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

## Practical Freethought

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R.O.

## Holidays of Special Interest

- 2013 International Year of [Water Cooperation](#) (UN)  
November is National Novel Writing Month

- 2nd Book Lovers day
- 5th. Guy Fawkes day
- 9th. Carl Sagan’s Birthday
- 11th Veterans day
- 13th Sadie Hawkins day
- 22nd Universal Children’s day
- 28th Red Planet day
- 30th Mark Twain’s Birthday



### TBCoR Leadership Team 2013

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

Editorial E-Mail: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

### Be Included!

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