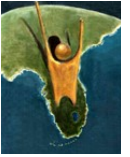




Vol. 6 No. 1, January 2017 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason Freethought News



## What's Inside?

- [Unified Calendar... 14](#)
- [Humanist Society..... 2\\*](#)
- [Tampa Humanists.... 4\\*](#)
- [Post Carbon Council.. 5](#)
- [Astronomy clubs..... 5](#)
- [UU-Tampa Humanists 5](#)
- [Books/Cooper Library 6](#)
- [ACLU Tampa Bay.... 7](#)
- [Clr. UU-Humanists... 7\\*](#)
- [Florida Atheists ..... 7\\*](#)
- [Humanist Families.... 8\\*](#)
- [Tampa Bay Thinkers 8](#)
- [Military Atheists..... 8\\*](#)
- [TB Computer Soc..... 8](#)
- [CFI-Tampa Bay ..... 9\\*](#)
- [Tampa Bay Skeptics...11\\*](#)
- [Inst. For Sci. & Hum..12\\*](#)

Coming Saturday, January 14th  
**SkeptiCamp2** and, it's free!



According to scientist, writer, [Brian Dunning](#), "The true meaning of the word *skepticism* has nothing to do with doubt, disbelief, or negativity. Skepticism is the process of applying reason and critical thinking to determine validity. *It's the process of finding a supported conclusion, not the justification of a preconceived conclusion.*"

To be a skeptic is to learn how to apply the available tools to the questions of life that constantly besiege us. **SkeptiCamp 2** is another opportunity to sharpen our wits and learn more about the numerous traps that await the unwary. **See Page 7 for info.**

## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

**Calendar**  
[Rick O'Keefe](#)

**Web site**  
Jim Peterson

**Newsletter**  
[Jim Peterson](#)

**Special Projects**  
Mark Brandt  
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:  
[www.evolvetampa.com](http://www.evolvetampa.com)

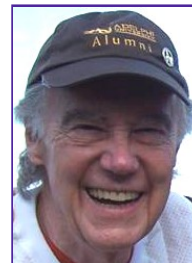
See the full roster of the  
Leadership board  
on Page 5.

This publication online at:  
[www.suncoasthumanist.com](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)



Coming  
February 5th,  
**Tom Flynn**

Tom Flynn is the Center for Inquiry's vice president for media and director of Inquiry Media Productions. He is also executive director of the Council for Secular Humanism and editor of its flagship magazine, [Free Inquiry](#). He designed and directs the Council's museum at the Dresden, N.Y., birthplace of 19th century agnostic orator Robert Green Ingersoll. He has written or edited eight books, including *The New Encyclopedia of Unbelief* (Prometheus, 2007). Presented by Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay & Tampa Bay Skeptics.



Once again, we mourn the loss of one of our finest, **Bob Schur**. Bob was a retired psychologist, married 54 years to his wife, Shelia. He

had 2 sons and a daughter, all adults. He was gracious and kind, and a dyed-in-the-wool liberal who cared about others. We met first as attorney and client and later worked on the Howard Dean campaign in 2004. Our friendship remained strong through the years with CFI and humanist activities. Bob was a great jazz and pop guitarist who played many gigs in the Tampa Bay area. He was a strong atheist/humanist and one who lived his values. It is ineffably sad when one so well liked is suddenly gone from our midst. ~ Mark Brandt



# The Humanist Society 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)

**Dunedin Public Library** 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL

Volume 30 No. 1 January, 2017

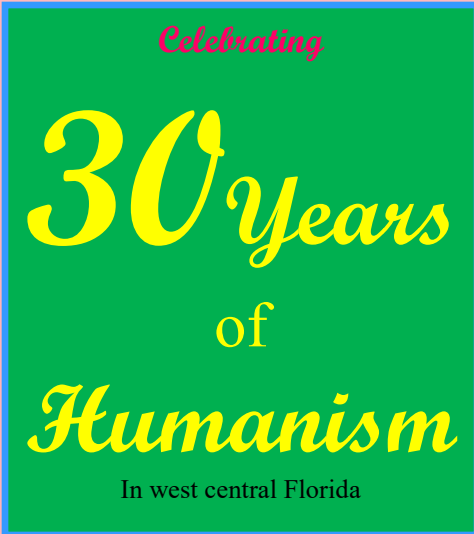
## How will we meet the future?

Since 1987 the Humanist Society of the Suncoast has striven to meet the needs of its members and to provide the kind of intellectual and moral alternative that is so urgently needed by our communities.

But the universe does not stand still, and neither do we. Things that once worked and gave pleasure and satisfaction no longer do. This includes all aspects of our lives from politics to food, computers to manners. Words once measured and precise, seem set adrift in a sea on jargon. All this in a single human lifetime can be confusing and at times, terrifying.

As the makeup of our political situation has changed dramatically, the environmental collapse appears to be exerting ever more pressure.

Of course not everything is headed south. Our capabilities, knowledge, and intelligence are at a



peak of development unparalleled in human history.

We may not be so different as those who listened to the words of Epicurus and the other ancient philosophers, but we have learned much in our cultural history. It is a treasury not to be dismissed.

All of which brings us to the crises of the present. What can we do; what difference can we make?

Our first meeting of the year will be devoted to a consideration of how we can best help our struggling society. Remember, there is no front to which we cannot contribute. Our experience and approach to questions can be valuable. We can learn much from listening to those with knowledge and wisdom. And we can have a marked effect by conveying those qualities to those positioned to teach others and create policy that reflects the best humanity has to offer.



**Join or renew**  
*Humanist Society of the Suncoast*

### Annual Dues

- E-mail news -Free
- 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](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Send tax deductible (501c3) check made out to:

"Marios Psomas"  
Memo line: "Humanist Society Dues"  
Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA  
1013 Connecticut Rd  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

\*= optional



## 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](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com) Thanx.

### Be with us at

**2:00 PM**  
**January 7th**

([map](#)) 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.

### Wedding, Child naming, Memorial?

Florida has a large number of celebrants who are specially trained to solemnize the important life transitions in the Humanist way. <http://thehumanistsociety.org/celebrants/map/#FL>



*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's monthly social Dinner  
is on hiatus!

Is there no one amongst you who would like to coordinate this 20 year old tradition?

What this is about is simply to find a nice quiet, reasonably priced restaurant where 12 to 22 humanists can sit down to enjoy a lengthy discussion and a fine meal with good friends,... before tearing into subtle disagreements over philosophical and political issues of many kinds, just to show they can really do it.

**We need a coordinator for this!... Maybe you? Write to: [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)**

This is a high status, prestigious position within the organization that will cause you to swell up with pride (and possibly indigestion) in being a part of the smooth running mechanism that is organized humanism. (hmmmpf...#@%)

## Laugh Lines 01-17

Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual. - *Mark Twain*

I always like New Year's because it's so bizarre to me that we're drunk, we're counting backwards ... Like, when did this tradition start? Did they heave it back in ancient times, like in Ancient Rome did they have to go, 'X! I-X! V-I-I -I! V-I-I-I I'm out ...!' - *Ted Alexandro*

If you throw a New Year's Party, the worst thing that you can do would be to throw the kind of party where your guests wake up the next day, and call you to say they had a nice time. Now you'll be expected to throw another party next year.

What you should do is throw the kind of party where your guest wake up several days from now and call their lawyers to find out if they've been indicted for anything. You want your guests to be so anxious to avoid a recurrence of your party that they immediately start planning parties of their own, a year in advance, just to prevent you from having another one. - *Dave Berry*

## Humanist society

of the Suncoast

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

### Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

**Jay Alexander,**  
**Steve Brown,**  
**Lois Fries,** Secretary  
**Dave Kovar,** Vice President  
**Jim Peterson,** President  
**Frank Prahl,**  
**Marios Psomas,** Treasurer  
**Jordan Williams.**

*Emeritus members: Terry Eckstein, Dr. Jon Green, Mark Kligman, Dr. Jack Robinson, Jerry Moore, Anita Garcia, Mark Winterbottom, Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn Paul, Don Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard, Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler*

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

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

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

### Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,  
**click:**  
[Secular Therapy Org.](http://SecularTherapyOrg.com)

[Cognitive Neurosciences Inc.](http://CognitiveNeurosciencesInc.com)

**Or call:**  
**Lynda Gurvitz,**  
**(727) 725-8820**

**Patricia Walters,**  
**(813) 452-6547**





## Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

**North Tampa Public Library**

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

January 21st, 11 AM

Discussion Leader: **Lucas Hopegood**

As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above and within the level of conscious recognition. Using the instruments of reason, and critical thinking, we strive to be at one in understanding both the world that made us, and the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully and critically dissects a new intersection of mind and matter. Be part of it. Subject:

**“ Pining for the lost World of Reason - or, is it too early?”** JP

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



Member, TBCoR,  
Hum Society, & AHA  
affiliate.



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.

As our government undergoes its quadrennial crises of morphology, the secular coalition is needed to remind citizens and officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots requires your involvement.

### Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!



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

Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)



Tampa Bay CoR  
9654 W. Linebaugh Ave. PMB #110  
Tampa, FL 33626  
E-mail: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

## Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Tampa Humanist Association, Institute for Science and Human Values, Freethinkers@USF,\* UU Humanists Clearwater, Atheists of Florida, UU Humanists Tampa,\* 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 secular / freethought / Humanist /Atheist movement.*

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

Contact: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net) <http://tampabaycor.net/>

## 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://uutampanet.org/unitarian-universalist-humanist-of-tampa/>

### Humanist Quotes

*If we attend continually  
and promptly to the little  
that we can do, we shall  
ere long be surprised  
to find how little  
remains that  
we cannot do.  
~ Samuel Butler*



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

President-elect Donald Trump may dismiss the Paris Agreement and pack his cabinet with climate deniers, but once he takes office, he will face a world that takes the climate crisis as seriously as he does not. He will enter a complex web of diplomatic relations, where issues like trade, finance, migration, security, poverty, food aid and disaster relief are all intertwined and all have important links to the climate agenda. It's a world already dealing with significant climate impacts and sold on climate action.

"I am struck by the shift in how the global community puts climate change on its agenda," said [Jonathan Pershing](#), President Obama's special envoy on climate, "It is now virtually everywhere."

Since the signing of the Paris Agreement a year ago, addressing climate change has remained a major imperative for most of the world's nations. Enough countries quickly ratified the accord so that it entered into force early, in November. Shortly after Trump's surprising election, delegates from virtually every country in the world [gathered in Marrakech to start putting the Paris treaty immediately into action](#). Most countries also signed on to two other agreements this fall: one to reduce [potent greenhouse gases used in refrigeration](#) and another to [cap emissions for the aviation industry](#).

Whatever the U.S. does under Trump, other countries "will move whether or not we are moving forward," Pershing predicted.

"It's already built into decisions that are being made," said [Timothy Wirth](#), vice chair of the United Nations Foundation, a former Colorado Senator and a top climate negotiator for former President Clinton. "To try to fight an uphill, rearguard action against the realities of science and climate seems to be a very worthless political exercise. They'd get nothing out of it."

[Nathaniel Keohane](#), climate vice president at the Environmental Defense Fund, said that U.S. climate action could be a litmus test to gauge how far the Trump administration is willing to go in other realms of cooperation. It may even become a prime bargaining chip. [David Wirth](#), a law professor at Boston College and a former legal adviser to the State Department said "We would lose leverage. We would create an immense amount of ill-will having taken on these obligations and now saying we are backing off for no obvious benefit."

What the Trump administration will ultimately do on climate change is still unclear, but the evidence keeps piling up that it will be hostile to climate science and action.



Toni Van Pelt,  
ISHV



Bill Norsworthy,  
UUCH



Mark Brandt,  
UUCH



Chris Brown,  
MAF



Jenn Hancock,  
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,  
CFI, TBS



Jim Peterson,  
HSS, TBPC



Al Hann  
AoF

### TBCoR Leadership Team 2016

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

## USF Freethinkers

Join Freethinkers@USF for genuine, conversational discourse and a communal atmosphere.

Freethinkers@USF is a cosmopolitan collective of USF students promoting critical thinking and pluralism through dialogue and reasonable inquiry. Join the official group and vote on upcoming discussions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/>

For more information contact: [fadibitar@mail.usf](mailto:fadibitar@mail.usf)

## M.A.R.S. – Tampa Astronomy Club

Welcome to the [Museum Astronomical Resource Society](#), also known as the M.A.R.S. astronomy club. M.A.R.S. is sponsored by the [Museum of Science and Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League](#) and [Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news and astronomical information to our membership and to the public.

There's only one thing the people of M.A.R.S. enjoy more than observing the heavens... that's sharing it with others! Whether you are new to astronomy and curious about how to experience it, or a seasoned veteran looking for an active club to spend observation time with. We invite you to attend a meetings as our honored guest.

Monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd floor of MOSI in the Science Works Theater, and take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Details & RSVP:

<https://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/>

## 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](mailto:spaceaminer@gmail.com)

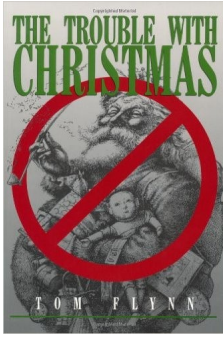
Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November and December when it is on the third Friday) at the Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL., at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)





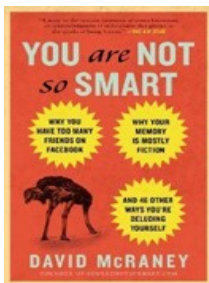
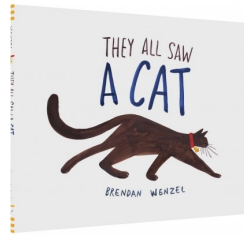
## Recommended Reading

Click on the [image](#) for more info



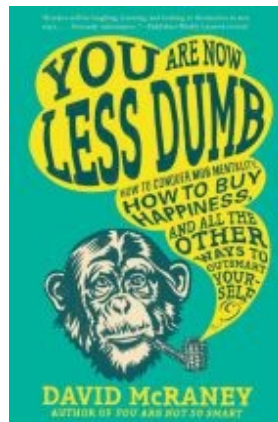
In 1984, having given up his religious beliefs for atheism, Flynn stopped celebrating Christmas because “it was no longer the birthday of anyone I knew.” Flynn urges unbelievers to be more visible by sitting out the winter holidays. He argues that Christmas is too narrowly Anglophile to continue as the compulsory winter holiday of an increasingly diverse America. “Yes, Virginia, believing in the Santa Claus myth is harmful to young people’s mental development .”

The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws . . . in this celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Wenzel shows us the many lives of one cat, & how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see?

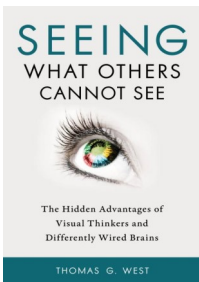


In this international bestseller, discover the wonderful ways you delude yourself every day and enjoy a healthy dose of humility. With each new subject you will start to see how unaware of how unaware you are and how it keeps you sane. “It turns out we’re much more irrational than most of us think, so give yourself every advantage you can and read this book.” – Alexis Ohanian

Go deeper into understanding just how deluded you really are & learn how you can use that knowledge to be more humble, better connected, and less dumb in the sequel to the internationally bestselling *You Are Not So Smart*. “Now, thanks to David McRaney’s mind-blowing book, we can finally see the scientific roots of that problem. Anybody still self-aware enough to wonder why society now worships willful stupidity should read this book.” – David Sirota



This is an inspiring book that not only documents the achievements of people with various learning differences, but reveals their great potential—especially in a new digital age where traditional clerical and academic skills are less and less important while an ability to think in pictures and to understand patterns is rapidly increasing in value in the global economic marketplace.



**Evolve Fish is a good source for 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](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com) Then pick it up at the next meeting **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

#	TITLE	AUTHOR
1.	The Expanding Circle	Peter Singer
2.	In Gods we Trust	Scott Atran
3.	Why Evolution is True	Jerry Coyne
4.	The Second World	Panag Khanna
5.	Denialism	Michael Specter
6.	The Selfish Gene	Richard Dawkins
7.	Democracy Incorporated	Sheldon Wolin
8.	The Upside Irrationality	Dan Ariely
9.	The End of Growth	Richard Heinberg
10.	The God Delusion	Richard Dawkins
11.	All That We Share	Jay Wallgasper
12.	Sex, Time, and Power	Leonard Shlain
13.	Sex at Dawn	C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14.	What liberal Media	Eric Alderman
15.	The End of Faith	Sam Harris
16.	Plan B	Lester Brown
17.	The Portable Atheist	Christopher Hitchens
18.	Open Society	George Soros
19.	Non Believer Nation	David Niose
20.	God on Trial	Peter Irons
21.	Natural Experiments of History	Diamond-Robinson
22.	The Missionary Position	Christopher Hitchens
23.	Life Inc	Douglas Rushkoff
24.	A brief History of Time	Stephen Hawkins
25.	Breaking the Spell	Daniel Dennett
26.	The Philosophy of Humanism	Corliss Lamont
27.	The Quotable Atheist	Jack Huberman
28.	50 Reasons People Give for Believing In God.	G. Harrison
29.	Mathematics and Politics	Alan Taylor
30.	Stealing Elections	John Fund
31.	The God Virus	Darrel Ray
32.	What Every American Should Know About World	Rossi
33.	Imagine There’s no Heaven	Editors of Free Inquiry
34.	Hidden Order	David Friedman
35.	What the Dog Saw	Malcolm Gladwell
36.	Sway	Ori, Rom Brafman
37.	The Better Angels of our Nature	Steven Pinker
38.	Letter to a Young Contrarian	Christopher Hitchens
39.	Hot, Flat, and Crowded	Thomas Friedman
40.	Gaming the Vote	William Poundstone
41.	Subversion Fable	Alexa KcKearing
43.	Evolution and the Big Question	David Stamos
44.	Why People Believe Weird Things	Michael Shermer
45.	The World is Curved	David Snick
46.	The Snow Ball	Warren Buffett
47.	The Moral Landscape	Sam Harris
48.	How We Believe	Michael Shermer
49.	Full House	Steven Jay Gould
50.	The Origins of Political Order	Francis Fukuyama
51.	Asimov’s Guide to the Bible	Isaac Asimov
52.	Autobiography of Mark Twain	Harriet Smith, Editor
53.	Science Friction	Michael Shermer
54.	Genius	James Gleick
55.	Inevitable Illusions	Piatrelli & Palmarini
56.	Sex & God	Darryl Ray
57.	Being Right Is Not Enough	Paul Waldman
58.	Loser Takes All	Mark Crispin Miller
59.	Taking Back Politics	Cathy Allen
60.	What Happened in Ohio?	Fitrakis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman
61.	Autobiography of Mark Twain	Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62.	The Skeptics Annotated Bible	
63.	Database Systems (Complete Ver.)	Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis
64.	Reluctant Database Administrators	Josef Finsel
65.	Asimov’s Guide to the Bible	Isaac Asimov
66.	Inevitable Illusions	M. Piattelli-Palmarini
67.	Ain’t Nobody’s business If You Do	Peter McWilliams
69.	Bonk	Mary Roach
70.	What Money Can’t Buy	Michael J. Sandel
71.	Financial Shenanigans	Howard Shilit
72.	Sex & God	Darrel Ray, ED.D
73.	Best American Non required Reading	Dave Eggers
74.	Reporting at Wit’s End	St. Clair McKelway
75.	Corporations are not People	Clements
76.	Could I Vote Mormon for president?	Crugan – Phillips
77.	Culture of Honor	Nisbett – Cohen
78.	Rot on the Vine	Stenesh
79.	Thoughts of a Freethinker	New! Kaye

For even more access to Freethought history and perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prah’s Freethought Library. Contact [fprah@verizon.net](mailto:fprah@verizon.net)

# Atheists of Florida, Inc.



**Tracy Thomas, Chair - Judy M. Adkins, President**

Join members of our Tampa chapter at our headquarters / Studio Building on So. Westshore.

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

For information on current activities for this month, see our comprehensive web site:

<http://aof.ngo>

## St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

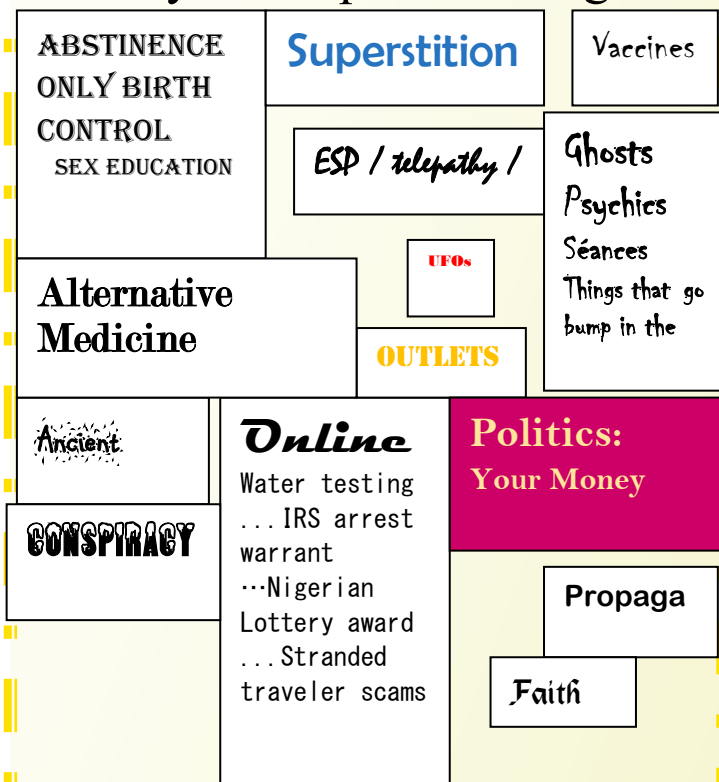
Contact: [easy8@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:easy8@tampabay.rr.com)

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"

## SkeptiCamp2

### Are you Skeptical Enough?



### Are those Valuable Insights, or Costly Wastes of Time?

Our panel of experts, including: Dave Dockery, Ryan Cragun, Barry Silber, & other surprise guests, will lead an interactive learning experience about the ways of critical thinking.

~ SkeptiCamp 2 is a project of Atheists of Florida ~

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017

at UU Clearwater Social Hall, 2470 Nursery Rd. Clearwater

1pm – 5pm (doors open at 12:30pm)

*Light Refreshments will be available*

**Admission is FREE**

**Info & RSVP : [aof.ngo](http://aof.ngo)**

Donations are solicited to help defray expenses: AoF

## Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008.  
Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa,  
every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.

**January 9th**

**Topic: How is social media changing us? Is Silicon Valley addicting us to our phones?**

See our Meetup site:

[www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/](http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/)  
for more information.

## The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers



The **MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH)** community was created for atheist and secular humanist military personnel stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, their families and retired military residing in the Tampa Bay area. MASH provides a valuable and much needed resource in which you will find common ground to socialize, discuss issues, and draw emotional support from like-minded members.

**Local Contact:** Chris  
( [christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:christbrown@yahoo.com) )

MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:

**MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB**

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

## Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

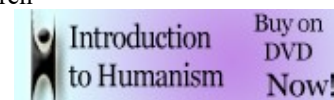
**Jennifer Hancock** started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in 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>.



## Tampa Bay Computer Society & Doc's Café



Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. 300 S Duncan Ave Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755. [Map](#)  
Check out *Doc's Café* to discuss serious ideas & issues.

Find us at:

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

**We repair member's computers Free!**

From one of our own, [Letter to the Editor: \(Tampa Bay Times\)](#) Age of optimism | Dec. 14, commentary

### Signs of despair

Adam Goodman compares today's howling over Donald Trump to the howling over former President Ronald Reagan. He says: "America's elites howled, academics wretched, and the media predicted the Reagan Revolution would end in a dust bowl of dashed dreams."

Well, we were right. There is massive public and private debt, our prison population is the highest in the world, our gun violence far surpasses any other country, the younger generations no longer feel the American dream is possible, and the political system has twice elected (within 16 years) a minority vote-getter as president.

In fact, Trump's election is not a sign of optimism but a vote of despair. Many of his supporters acknowledge that he is unfit for the job, but they have lost all faith in the current system and were willing to try anything.

By **Christopher Radulich**, Apollo Beach





## CENTER FOR INQUIRY

**Tampa Bay**

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



Rick O'Keefe

The New Year is a good time to reflect on both gratitude for family and friends, and our plans for our future. With our freethinking family, we can endure and remain optimistic. Stay in touch, support your favorite freethought communities. My very best wishes for your happiness and satisfaction. Rick

Skepticism is part of reflection ... In religion and ethics, in politics, you have to be skeptical of claims that people make. It applies to all parts of life. Your own beliefs and the beliefs of others, and your willingness to examine these, to see if they hold up under scrutiny. ~ *Paul Kurtz*

The chief deficiency I see in the skeptical movement is its polarization: Us vs. Them — the sense that we have a monopoly on the truth; that those other people who believe in all these stupid doctrines are morons; that if you're sensible, you'll listen to us; and if not, to hell with you. This is nonconstructive. It does not get our message across. It condemns us to permanent minority status. ~ *Carl Sagan*

The scientific peer review process is extremely crucial. It is one of the things that distinguishes science from most other fields of human thought, because of the rigor and quality control it brings. But just like any other human system, if there is a motive to scam people or to soak them for money, someone will figure out a way to game the system. Caveat emptor! ~ *Dr. Donald Prothero*

The moment you introduce a despotism in the world of thought, you succeed in making hypocrites -- and you get in such a position that you never know what your neighbor thinks. ~ *Robert Green Ingersoll, The Limitations of Toleration*

I have no religion, and at times I wish all religions at the bottom of the sea. He is a weak ruler who needs religion to uphold his government; it is as if he would catch his people in a trap. My people are going to learn the principles of democracy, the dictates of truth, and the teachings of science. ~ *Kemal Ataturk*

Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. ~ *Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Happiness is the only good,  
The time to be happy is now,  
The place to be happy is here,  
The way be happy is to make others so.

~ *Robert Green Ingersoll*

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. ~ *Leo Buscaglia*

**Feel better! Please Support CFI-Tampa Bay**

Ready to put your humanism into action? Join now to keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, & become a member!

**JOIN NOW**



## No Need to Worry; the EPA will handle it.

Millions of years is the estimated time required for the planet and its life to recover after feed-back warming has been activated! Mere decades are all that's necessary to initially trigger the feed-backs or for anoxia\* to kick in!

\*It is possible we have already set enough warming in process to trigger feed-backs in the near future, so we really do need to start taking these issues seriously. Persistent denial is the road to extinction!

The physics of the atmosphere and the oceans, is the same, regardless of if fossil coal, gas, and oil deposits are converted into CO2 by volcanoes, meteorites or humans!\*

We are now dealing with an ongoing feed-back warming process that exacerbates and hastens temperatures into the extinction zone. No comfort. No mercy. Yep, we need to get really **really** serious about starting to talk about global warming and make a new year's resolution about really, really doing something about those ever so obese CO2 emissions in 2017...Look, if the projections are correct, the time for talking, making resolutions and signing pen-and-paper non-binding agreements is over.

Our species has done what many large animal species have done. We've overbred but overbred uniquely with no natural checks on continuous population growth into the billions. Overpopulated herds of deer in the absence of predators that check multiplying numbers have killed stands of autumnal trees by feeding on the bark. We humans have brought our atmospheric industrial warming into the picture with a vengeance on a planetary scale of rising carbon concentration. In my view our discussion boils down to the fatal question of how rapidly we can stabilize concentration at 400 to 450ppm. Actual reductions can only take place centuries after stabilization. The brutal reality is that it is statistically impossible to keep the concentration under 450 ppm around 2050.

If the climate science projections provide reliable evidence to justify the descriptions cited then we'd better kiss our asses goodbye now. It's all mathematical after all despite how much we love our kids.

It will effectively be up to millennials to bight the bullet or take the bullet. As the 18th century English critic, Samuel Johnson, said, "*when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.*". Time to spread to word and accomplish the deeds.

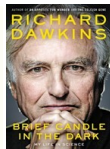
\*Anoxia - lack of oxygen.

[Melvin & Alan](#)

### Richard Dawkins' NEWEST book!

Exclusive autographed copy for only \$36.95 plus S&H. Few are left.

Go to: [www.evolutetampa.com](http://www.evolutetampa.com)



## Ever wonder what Florida Freethought groups are doing?



Now you can easily know. Atheists of Florida have a new freethought Calendar:

<http://AtheistsOfFloridaInc.org/calendar/>

Know what's going on around the entire state.

## Local Activists to meet with Senator Nelson, Jan 4th

Among those participating in the delegation are:

Marcia Cohen-ACLU

Marty Hayden-Earth Justice-sending a representative

Eleanor Cecil-Tampa NOW

Mark Brandt-Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Meri Forte-Namuj DWCF grassroots chair

Helen Wall- W. Pinellas NOW

Toni Van Pelt-Institute for Science and Human Values

Elaine Togneri-Pasco NOW

Marilyn Hafling-Pinellas NOW

Donna Polhamus-Clearwater UU Church Social Justice Committee.

Lisa Perry-DWC of Central Pinellas

Rick O'Keefe-Cfi-Tampa Bay

Judy Adkins-Atheists of Florida

James Peterson-Humanists of the Suncoast

Others are encouraged to [write or call to share your opinion](#) with our senators. Watch for a report back in this newsletter.

The subject of concern here is the administration's controversial nominee for Attorney general,



Senator, Jefferson Beauregard Sessions

## Humanistic Judaism of Tampa Bay

Visit their [Meetup](#) or [email to Jeff Lipkes](#)

## Bank of Wisdom

*Electronic publishing to make the world better*

Get Bank of Wisdom—**FREE.**

Contact [Marios Psomas](#), Librarian



Founded in 1988 by [Gary P. Posner, M.D.](#), 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. [Read More!](#)

## Donald Trump should know: This is what climate change costs us

By Michael Greenstone and Cass R. Sunstein, New York Times, Friday, December 16, 2016

Donald J. Trump's transition team recently sent a startling questionnaire to the Department of Energy. Among other things, the questionnaire asked for the names of all employees and contractors who attended meetings of the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Carbon, as well as all emails associated with those meetings, and the department's "opinion" on the underlying issues — a request it essentially refused.

Though Trump's transition team later said that the questionnaire was sent in error, it should be understood in tandem with a leaked memorandum from Thomas Pyle, the leader of the transition's energy team and president of the American Energy Alliance, which promotes "free market" policies. Pyle described the steps the Trump administration will probably take to reduce environmental regulations, including "ending the use of the social cost of carbon in federal rule makings."

If that happens, it will defy law, science and economics.  
<SNIP>

To be sure, the exact number is uncertain, and the Trump administration will make its own judgment. But a credible assessment must be based on the best science and economics, not politics. And there is no justification for a chilling investigation of civil servants who are just doing their jobs.

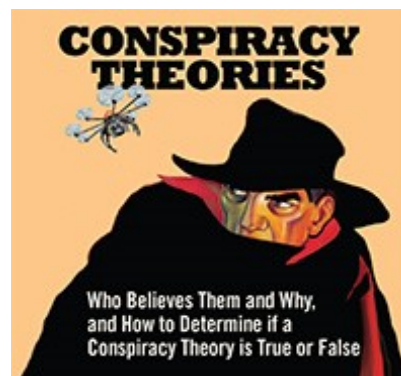
Ultimately, the social cost of carbon provides a necessary guidepost in decisions about how to balance costs to our economy today with the coming climate damages. Wishing that we did not face this trade-off will not make it go away.

Any effort to eliminate the social cost of carbon would reflect a neglect of science and economics — and it would be quickly struck down in court.

Read the entire article [HERE](#).



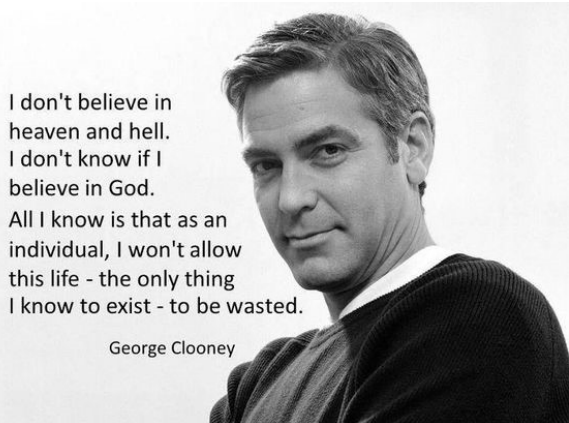
[Download the free PDF](#)



## Who believes them? Why? How can you tell if they're true?

What is a conspiracy theory, why do people believe in them, and why do they tend to proliferate? Why does belief in one conspiracy correlate to belief in others? What are the triggers of belief, and how does group identity factor into it? How can one tell the difference between a true conspiracy and a false one?

[Download the free PDF](#)



I don't believe in heaven and hell. I don't know if I believe in God. All I know is that as an individual, I won't allow this life - the only thing I know to exist - to be wasted.

George Clooney



What I am is a humanist before anything - before I'm a Jew, before I'm black, before I'm a woman. And my beliefs are for the human race - they don't exclude anyone.

— Whoopi Goldberg —

AZ QUOTES



# HOW WAS THE WORLD CREATED?



**How the world came to be:**

God created the world in six days, beginning with the day and night, then the sky, sea and earth, then the sun, moon and stars, then the animals and finally the first man, Adam, which he shaped in His image. He later created the first woman, Eve, from Adam's rib.

**How the world came to be:**

Several creation stories, in which the universe is in a never-ending cycle of creation, destruction and rebirth. In the beginning, there was nothing but darkness. The god Vishnu slept in the coils of a giant cobra, and upon awakening bore the god Brahma from a lotus, who in turn created the world and its inhabitants.

**How the world came to be:**

In the beginning of time creation was mixed together in a great cloud. The lighter parts rose and became the heavens, while the heavier parts descended and became ocean. From this a sprout began to grow into a flower, and when it opened the First God appeared. The First God created Izanagi and his wife Izanami, who together plunged a jewel-crowned spear into the ocean. When they pulled it out, the first island of the Japanese archipelago was created. Izanagi and Izanami descended to the island and from there created the rest of the world.

**How the world came to be:**

From the chaos of creation formed a cosmic egg, within which the principles of Yin and Yang became balanced. The creator Pangu emerged from the egg and created the earth and the sky. To separate the two he stood between them and pushed. The task took 18,000 years, during each day of which the sky grew ten feet higher, the earth ten feet thicker, and Pangu ten feet taller.

**How the world came to be:**

In the dark void of the beginning of time the giant Ymir was born from poison and frost, who suckled from the great cow Audumla. From her came the being Buri, who fathered Borr, who fathered the gods Odin, Vili and Ve. Borr's sons slew Ymir and created the earth from his body. The first man and woman, Ask and Embla, were created from an ash tree and an elm tree respectively.

**How the world came to be:**

The universe was most likely created through some kind of Big Bang approximately 13.5 billion years ago. The Earth itself is around 4.54 billion years old, having been born through accretion in the solar nebula and eventually cooling and acquiring an atmosphere. Life on earth progressed and evolved from primitive organisms to increasingly complex and diverse species via mutation and natural selection. Hominids branched off from apes about 3 to 5 million years ago, with modern man first appearing around 200,000 years ago.

**Evidence:**

It says so in Genesis.

**Evidence:**

It says so in the Vedas.

**Evidence:**

It says so in the Kojiki.

**Evidence:**

It says so in the Sazou Liji.

**Evidence:**

It says so in the Eddas.

**Evidence:**

Radiometric dating, Hubble's law, observations of cosmic background radiation, primordial nucleosynthesis, distribution and morphology of galaxies, theory of general relativity, genetics and phylogenetics, heredity, hybridization, microevolution, the fossil record, comparative sequence alignment, vestigial and homologous structures, acquired antibiotic and pesticide resistance, geographic distribution and correlation, island biogeography



## ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay

Since the election, National ACLU went from 700,000 Facebook fans to more than a million. Thank you to all of our supporters, new and old. We would not be able to do the work we have ahead without you.

Will you join with us? <https://tampa.aclufl.org/>

We're on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aclufltampa/>

Column: Defending rights in Florida after this election

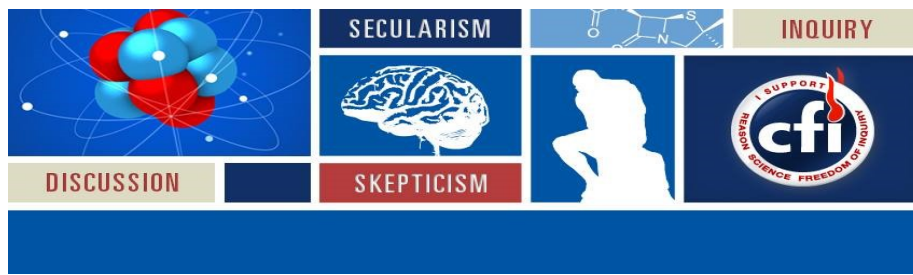
Change our nation's libel laws to go after critics in the media. The day after the election, the ACLU of Florida staff met first to come to terms with our collective shock at the civil liberties challenges we are now surely facing, then to begin planning ... [Tampa Bay Times](#)



## Clearwater UU Humanists

Usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 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. In January:



## “Islamophobia” the blasphemy accusation of Western liberals

by Kacem El Ghazzali ~ [The Dawkins Foundation](#)

Is the West today confronted with the return of religious fundamentalism in a new disguise? Yes – but today, it is the mosque instead of the Church that is requesting far-reaching powers. Islamic fundamentalism not only affects Muslim countries, but is also a global problem. Tragic testaments to this fact include, of course, global terror attacks in the name of Islam, such as the recent attack in Nice. Yet also in Europe, we see demands for religiously-justified special wishes of some Muslims, especially in public schools. In this context, it’s totally absurd that those who are critical of these demands are accused of “Islamophobia”. A reliable method of censorship, Islamists frequently apply this phrase to quickly dispose of any logical or reasoned arguments, while simultaneously making their opponents appear dishonorable.

What’s perplexing is that many Western liberals fall repeatedly into this trap. When it comes to Islam, under the banner of multiculturalism and misplaced tolerance, they’ve come to represent a regressive and even reactionary position. Would these regressive Leftists take the same position if Christian fundamentalists, for religious reasons, were to demand the segregation of boys and girls in public swimming pools, or a ban on the teaching of boys by female teachers? Islamist ideology is ultimately directed against all that we liberals once loved and held dear: the values of liberty, equality, and fraternity produced by the Enlightenment.



Instead of listening to those regressive Leftists who have played down or even legitimized the Paris terror attacks, Charlie Hebdo, and other incidents, the West should support freethinkers and intellectuals like Elham Manea, Faisal Saeed Al Mutar, Hamed Abdel Samad, and other liberal, secular Muslims and ex-Muslims. These figures are not only better acquainted with Islam, but have lived under religious laws and have had to confront the issue intimately for decades. These Muslim and ex-Muslim reformers are of the opinion that, in order to initiate a major Enlightenment within Islam, we must recognize the undeniable fact that Islam itself, including the Prophet and Koran, is not infallible and must be subject to criticism.

Of course, criticism of Islamism and Islam is a very complex issue in this new era of Western populism. As expected, there are people who try to exploit our work and efforts, people with whom we have little in common politically, intellectually, or historically. What we ought to do is admit when such people are correct, but still criticize them when they’re wrong. Avoiding and censoring criticism of Islam solely because populists and demagogues make similar critiques is the greatest failure of today’s liberals and freethinkers.

## University of South Florida Humanities Institute

Tuesday, Jan. 24 CWY 206 6:00pm - Reception to follow. By the author of the "*Black Lives Matter Syllabus*"

Tuesday, Jan. 31 Southern Brewing and Wine making 4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, FL. 33603 7:00pm

*Humanities and Hops: What's up with religion these days?*

For more engaging speakers and socials:  
<http://www.humanities-institute.usf.edu/>

[Select lectures](#) are available on YouTube.



## [Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science](#)

CFI and the Dawkins Foundation have now merged, and are now able to offer a greater diversity of programs than ever.

So much more to read [HERE](#). <http://bit.ly/2dggynJ>



Beyond atheism.  
Beyond agnosticism.  
**Secular Humanism**

Our local [Meetup](#) makes it easy to view and *RSVP* to our activities and some affiliated events. The value to us of your joining our Meetup is that we need to know how many folks expect to attend an activity. Some programs are limited in seating; some require ordering books, etc.; some are open only to paid-up CFI members; and some require prepayment.





## How to not lose sight of your values when making goals

By Jennifer Hancock



I come at this both behaviorally and philosophically. I am a Humanist and provide philosophic counselling on goal setting. What I tell people to do is spend some time setting primary, secondary & tertiary goals. Much of what many people are concerned about is focused on tertiary goals, which is why they often lose sight of their primary goals.

### Primary Goals

For instance, my primary goal is to live life fully, love other people and leave the world a better place. If I do that, I've succeeded, even if financially I am not in any given moment a financial success. Life is full of ups and downs.

### Secondary Goals

My secondary goals are related to the "leave the world a better place" part of my primary goals. I want to help people to stop bullying and learn how to live life without fear of other people. How to make better decisions using critical thinking so that they can actually create strategies that will actually work and help them reach their goals. Having my secondary or business goal grounded in my primary goal of leaving the world a better place helps me not give up even when I want to. My work is too important to not do.

### Tertiary Goals

My tertiary goal is – what exactly I'm going to do to accomplish my secondary goals. So in my case, that is – create a learning company that teaches these things. It is only when I get to a tertiary goal that I can really start to develop a strategy to accomplish it. But by making sure my tertiary goal is based in my primary goal, when I create that strategy I do so in a way that honors and incorporates my primary goal – which is to live life fully.

To not get lost in the weeds of the day to day work of trying to make my tertiary goal a reality – I re-evaluate every 6 months. Is what I am doing helping me to my primary goals or secondary goals or tertiary goals? Do I need to rethink one of my tertiary goals? Do I need to re-allocate my time and priorities? The answer is ALWAYS yes. Yes I do need to re-prioritize based on what is working and what isn't and whether or not I am enjoying the work or not. I know there are things I should be doing for my business, but if I don't like doing them, I'm not going to do them. Every six months I take stock. What am I doing well, what am I avoiding? If I am avoiding something, which I always am, is there another way for me to accomplish that task without doing it in a way I don't like? If I get creative, the answer is yes. Let me give you an example, I was doing public speaking and I realized I don't like travelling. So I retooled the business to be an online learning program. If people want me – they can take an online class and skype me in if they want a live Q&A. I'm much happier and I'm not neglecting my family and it takes WAY less time than the other business model I was pursuing. Click to [Read on »](#)

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PS - I do teach this philosophic approach and the critical thinking skills that go with this in an online program <https://humanistlearning.com/video-planning-for-personal-success/> or as a streaming video (through [Amazon Prime](#)) or as a [DVD](#). Click to [Read on »](#)



## President Obama has signed the Wolf International Religious Freedom Act into law.

(Washington, DC, Dec. 15, 2016)—The American Humanist Association celebrates the passage of HR 1150, the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, in the U.S. Congress, and urges President Obama to sign the bill into law. This legislation supports freedom of thought and religion and protects both theistic and nontheistic beliefs “as well as the right not to profess or practice any religion.” If signed into law, it will be the first law that includes the term “non-theist.”

The American Humanist Association lobbied both Democrats and Republicans for inclusive language in HR 1150 that would recognize the rights of humanists, atheists and other nonreligious individuals, in addition to defending theistic religious minorities. The Act states that “the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is understood to protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs as well as the right not to profess or practice any religion.” The Act also condemns “specific targeting of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because of their beliefs” and attempts to forcibly compel “non-believers or non-theists to recant their beliefs or to convert.” The persecution of openly humanist and atheist writers has become an area of increasing concern especially after the string of murders of secular bloggers and publishers by religious extremists in Bangladesh. The American Humanist Association, along with other international advocates for religious freedom, have also been critical of the flogging of secular writers in Saudi Arabia, as well as a Saudi law that equates atheism with terrorism.

“Legislators are finally recognizing the human dignity of humanists and granting the nontheistic community the same protections and respect that have been given to religious communities,” said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association. “With the increasing global persecution of humanists and atheists at the hands of religious authoritarians, we’re proud that Congress and the US Department of State are standing for the liberty of all people, both religious and non-religious,” Speckhardt added, in reference to findings from the recent release of the International Humanist and Ethical Union’s 2016 Freedom of Thought report.

“A historic piece of legislation that for the first time in our nation’s history recognizes non-theists, the International Religious Freedom Act is the result of extensive advocacy efforts from the humanist community and the support of our religious allies,” said Matthew Bulger, legislative director of the American Humanist Association. “Religious freedom for all people, theists and non-theists, is an American value we must protect.”

Once signed into law, the International Religious Freedom Act will strengthen the standing of the International Religious Freedom Office and the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and promote other actions meant to foster religious freedom abroad.



## AHA Statement on Peace

Despite our diverse perspectives on societal, ethical, philosophical, and geographical issues, we recognize the freedom, value, and respect to which all of the world’s individuals are entitled. The pursuit of peaceful and non-violent strategies for resolving the world’s most dire conflicts, which often result in genocide, war, and autocracy, is paramount for human coexistence and progress. Preemptive war, unilateral conflict, arms proliferation, terrorism, and indiscriminate use of force all threaten the common bonds of humanity that we all share.

The AHA believes that cultural exchange, cooperation, peaceful conflict resolution, and diplomacy through multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations, are the most appropriate ways to respect human rights and make the world a safer place for all of its inhabitants. Accordingly, the United States should sign on to the International Criminal Court, abide by and help enforce international law, and push other countries to strengthen the rule of law in their own societies. Furthermore, peace — not war — and respect for international law are the best forces in international and national policy that positively impacts humanity.

Save the date! For the AHA’s 76th Annual Conference will take place from June 8 - 11, 2017 in Charleston, South Carolina! Visit [conference.americanhumanist.org](http://conference.americanhumanist.org) book your earlybird lodging options, sign up for speaking opportunities, and more!

[Learn more about the AHA’s Annual Conference here.](http://conference.americanhumanist.org)



## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – January 2017 Calendar



This is produced from preliminary information. *Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where .... We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.*  
 Your **RSVP** is requested, and often is required for admittance. *Meeting planners need this information.*  
**Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://www.tampabaycor.org/>**



2nd Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Social, with Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup">http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup</a>	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup">http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup</a>	
1st Saturday, 2 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists">http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists</a>	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: <a href="http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists">http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists</a>	
TBA – various activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi">http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi</a> Other events: <a href="http://bit.ly/MARS-home">http://bit.ly/MARS-home</a>	
TBA - numerous events— next Spring	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See <a href="#">Web site</a> for full listing of many events & calendar. <a href="http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities">http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities</a> Locations vary!	
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	<b>RSVP is required.</b> Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI &amp; TBS paid members.</i> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists">http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists</a>	
4th Saturday, 10:30 AM;	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. <b>RSVP is required.</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a> <i>Must have read the book under discussion to attend</i>	
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. <b>RSVP</b> here: <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers">http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers</a>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar</a>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday plus various other times/venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY AREA– Humanist Families	<b>RSVP</b> here: Family outings and other activities. Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN">http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN</a>	



## 2017 Freethought Cruise with Hemant Mehta

<https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/> March 16-20, 2017