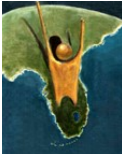


The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason



# Freethought News

Vol. 7 No. 1, January, 2018 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

To a Happy & Free New Year!



Coming for Darwin Day, next February 3rd:

## The Evolution of Human Happiness

TBCoR presents our Darwin day program on February 3rd.

### What's Inside?

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\* TB-CoR member



Dr. Ryan Cragun



Dr. Phil Zuckerman



Jennifer Hancock

These three fine authors have each contributed to the cause of humanity, each building unique bridges to improve the human condition as we enlarge individual human potential to meet the responsibilities we all have to ensure our common success. [See Page 11](#) for more on them.

**Phil Zuckerman** is a renowned sociologist whose researches into the mechanisms in society that produce a condition of happiness, are well respected, and an important resource for all who are concerned with improving human life.

**Jennifer Hancock** has made a career of introducing the practical implementation of Humanist principles in everyday life. She has written extensively on the subject of happiness.

**Ryan Cragun**, is a sociologist at the University of Tampa whose several books have provided important insights into the role and function of religion.

The event will be held on Saturday, **February 3rd** with doors open at **9:30 AM** and will end before 3 PM in the Octagon of the UU Congregation in Clearwater at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater. Tickets are on sale now at \$20 ea. from our constituent organizations, or can be ordered at our website: [www.tampabaycor.net](http://www.tampabaycor.net)

*The avoidance of suffering and the desire for happiness, no matter how defined are a constant stimulus to human activity, and a profound concern within each human life.*

### 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.tampabaycor.net](http://www.tampabaycor.net)

See the full roster of the Leadership board on Page 15.

This publication online at:

[www.tampabaycor.net](http://www.tampabaycor.net)

### 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>

### Freethought Radio on the air.

Atheists of Florida produces the *Atheist Forum*, every Sunday, from 7 to 8 pm.

The broadcast is available on WTAN-1340 and on the internet at [TanTalk1340.com](http://TanTalk1340.com)

Listeners can call 727-441-3000, call-in questions and comments. See page 12 for more.



# 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](#), & [ASHS](#). Find us at [www.suncoasthumanist.com](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)

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

Volume 31 No. 1 January, 2018



**Dr. Rosasco** has made some singular contributions to several fields of scientific endeavor.

He has kept pace with the ever accelerating changes in the collection of knowledge that aims to enable humanity to understand our universe and ourselves.

The answers science gives about ourselves & the universe are incomparably more surprising & interesting than any mythical tale about some clash of titans or a calculating creator. Indeed, science's proud journey of exploration & discovery is humanity's finest narrative yet.



Greg is a popular speaker in the Tampa Bay area. We are privileged to have him as a member of the society and have greatly enjoyed his past contributions to our program.



## Personal Reflections on a Half Century of Scientific Progress

Join us to hear physicist, **Dr. Greg Rosasco** reveal new insights into the scientific understanding of our world.

Greg has had a remarkable career in physics dealing with some of the cutting edge investigations of our time.



## Tampa Bay Harvest

**Food: the first kindness & the measure of our Hospitality.** Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. Money is more effective than cans and boxes to get the most benefit to the greatest number of people. But we can also use personal toiletries. Thanks to **Jordan Williams**. **We need volunteers!** Write to [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com) Thanx.

## Be with us then at

The Dunedin Public Library at 223 Douglas Ave. in Dunedin. ([map](#))

**Saturday, Jan. 6 at 2:00 PM**

Many of us go to dinner afterwards at: [Los Amigos](#) restaurant not far from the Library.

*It's that time of the year again!!  
(Ho, ho .....ho!)*

*Join or renew  
Humanist Society of the Suncoast*

### Annual Dues

- Regular -\$25
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin above)
- Life -\$200. (Pin)
- Life Couple -\$250.(Pin)
- Associate -\$10



Your membership helps keep Humanism alive & 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 & enables us to support larger & 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 & any changes from our previous information. Thanks!

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

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

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

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

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

Send check made out to:  
**"Marios Psomas"**  
Memo line: "Humanist Society Dues"  
(501c3, tax deductible)  
Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA  
1013 Connecticut Rd  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

\*= optional







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

## What is the Humanist Way?

- ◆ **To extend** a human centered approach to the critical problems of life & society.
- ◆ **To encourage** attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance & a loving generosity in human relationships, & in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others, & encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture & experience.
- ◆ **To develop** & popularize the skills of creative & critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition & irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.
- ◆ **To exalt** those artistic & imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure & enlightenment, & which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, & other expressions, we embrace the essence of what it means to be human.
- ◆ **To explore** the grounds of ethics & 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

Join us on Sunday, January 21st.  
at 5 O'clock for exotic cuisine from the orient and good company too, at:

## Chili's Restaurant

5430 E Bay Dr, Largo, FL 33771

Phone: (727) 539-8596

For [map](#) [Menu](#)

Kindly RSVP to: (727) 581-2146

Great Conversation and good food, reasonably priced.

## Laugh Lines Best Headlines of 2017 <sup>1-18</sup>

1. Include Your Children When Baking Cookies
2. Something Went Wrong in Rocket crash, Experts Say
3. Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
4. Drunks Get Nine Months in Violin Case
5. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
6. Is There a Ring of Debris Around Uranus?
7. Would-be Women Priests Appeal to Pope
8. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
9. British Left Waffles on Channel Islands
10. Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
11. Trump Wins Budget; More Lies Ahead
12. Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told
13. Miners Refuse to Work After Death
14. Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
15. Stolen Painting Found By Tree
16. Two Sisters Reunited After 18 Years in Checkout Line
17. War Dims Hope for Peace
18. If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last a While
19. Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
20. Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge

## Humanist Society of the Suncoast

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc., Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason, & The Association of Secular Humanist Societies

### Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

*Jay Alexander,*  
*Steve Brown,*  
*Lois Fries,* Secretary  
*Dave Kovar,*  
*Brad Perryman* Vice Pres.  
*Jim Peterson,* President  
*Frank Prahl,*  
*Marios Psomas,* Treasurer  
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~\*~\*~\*~\*~

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.](#)

[Cognitive Neurosciences  
Inc.](#)

### 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 20th, 11 AM

Leaders: *Lucas Hopegood & Jim Peterson*



Member, TBCoR,  
Hum Society, & AHA  
affiliate.

## Politics: The Art of Living

On the Anniversary of the inauguration of the present regime, we invite you to reassess the health of our democracy amidst the reality of chaos and threat that seems to undermine the best of what our forbearers created.

Members are invited to participate in a brief survey to help us find a programmatic direction for the coming year. Your ideas are important.

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

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

At present, we are a small, intimate group meeting in a neighborhood library. But we are ambitious, and hope to grow. Ideally, such small discussion groups should appear in every neighborhood. The need is as great as the potential. What is required is a few longtime humanists willing to take on the relatively small effort to secure a library meeting room once a month, post a few notices here and there (including this newsletter), and show up to lead a discussion, share a little knowledge; give something to the future.

As Isaac Asimov, former AHA president, is quoted as saying, "Since you can't take it with you, send it on ahead." Humanism is as much in need of good followership as it is of effective leadership. Now is the time to do your part in either category. We can help.

JP

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



## Raising Happy Children

By *Phil Zuckerman*

More children are "growing up godless" than at any other time in our nation's history. They are the offspring of an expanding secular population that includes a relatively new and burgeoning category of Americans called the "Nones," so nicknamed because they identified themselves as believing in "nothing in particular" in a [2012 study by the Pew Research Center](#).

So how does the raising of upstanding, moral children work without prayers at mealtimes and morality lessons at Sunday school? Quite well, it seems.

Far from being dysfunctional, nihilistic and rudderless without the security and rectitude of religion, secular households provide a sound and solid foundation for children, according to Vern Bengston, a USC professor of gerontology and sociology.

He was surprised by what he found: High levels of family solidarity and emotional closeness between parents and nonreligious youth, and strong ethical standards and moral values that had been clearly articulated as they were imparted to the next generation. Full online discussion [here](#).

\*\*\*

For more on this and related matters, come to our Darwin Day event. See page [1](#).

## Humanist Quotes

1/18

"Actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness, wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness."

– **John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, 1863**

"Always treat people as ends in themselves, never as means to an end."

– **Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, 1785**

"...one ought always to ask oneself what would happen if everyone did as one is doing; nor can one escape from that disturbing thought except by a kind of self-deception."

– **Jean-Paul Sartre, *Existentialism and Humanism*, 1946**

"If the gods have the will to remove evil and cannot, then they are not all-powerful. If they are neither able nor willing, they are neither all-powerful or benevolent. If they are both able and willing to annihilate evil, why does it exist?"

– **Epicurus, C300 BCE**



**The Crafty Freethinker** ... Yorkshire lass born and bred, currently living in the Sunshine State. Maker of fine Secular Jewelry, and lifelong freethinker, my work can be seen by clicking on the image at left.



An autonomous project of the Humanist Society.  
Affiliate of the [Post Carbon Institute](#)

## 2017 - A Post Carbon End-of-Year Review

From the World Resources Institute.

For CO2 emissions to fall, they first have to peak. And research published this year suggests that this is already happening.

The report, produced by the US-based World Resources Institute (WRI), suggests that 49 countries – which include the UK, US, Australia, Brazil and Canada – have seen their emissions peak, representing around 36% of current global emissions. But how much time does the world collectively have left to reduce its emissions in order to avoid dangerous climate change?

At the beginning of the year, [Carbon Brief](#) published our traditional carbon budget update, revealing that just four years of current CO2 emissions would blow what's left of the budget for a good chance of keeping global temperature rise to 1.5C.

However, in September, a new study published in Nature Geoscience proposed that there might be a little more breathing space to meet the 1.5C limit than previously thought.

As lead author Dr Richard Millar explained in a [guest post](#), the study estimates the remaining 1.5C carbon budget from today onwards. This contrasts to previous methods which have been based on cumulative emissions to date. As a result, Millar's study put the remaining 1.5C budget at around 20 years of current emissions.

The paper caused quite a stir, with parts of the media claiming that climate models – the basis for carbon budget estimates – are “wrong” and have overstated the observed warming of the planet.

Carbon Brief [factchecked](#) these claims, showing that the model-observation comparisons in the study depend greatly on the dataset and model outputs used by the authors. The authors also published their [own response](#) with Carbon Brief, pointing out that they “present no evidence in our paper to suggest that future CO2-induced warming under any emissions scenario will be lower than the projections given in AR5 [the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's fifth assessment report]”.

### 425 million tons

The world's tropical forests can no longer be considered a carbon sink. In fact, a global rise in deforestation and land degradation has caused tropical forests to become a net emitter of carbon, [a study found](#). It concluded that the world's rainforests had a net loss of around 425m tons of carbon from 2003 to 2014.

In other news, scientists were also forced to reconsider the

role that livestock play in global emissions. In September, a study found that recent methane emissions from livestock were 11% higher than previous estimates suggested.

However, this recalculation is unlikely to seriously dent efforts to meet the climate goals of the Paris Agreement, [Carbon Brief analysis](#) revealed. It found that revised methane emissions could have decreased the remaining carbon budget for limiting warming to 1.5C by 1-2%.

### 2nd (or 3rd) warmest year

Despite the [lack of an El Nino](#) event to drive up global temperatures, 2017 is still shaping up to be either the [second or third warmest](#) year on record, depending on the [organisation measuring](#) temperatures. This year now seems certain to be the warmest non-El Nino year recorded.

The temperatures in 2017 are in-line with what climate models [have projected](#) and show continued rapid warming [since the 1970s](#). This is true both in raw and adjusted temperature records, as adjustments have little impact in recent years and actually [reduce long-term global warming](#). [Read more...](#)

. # .

## Weekly fish consumption linked to better sleep, higher IQ

Regular fish consumption has been shown to improve cognition. It's also been known to help with sleep. A new study connects all three for the first time. The team found that children who eat fish at least once a week sleep better and have higher IQs by an average of 4 points. [Science Daily](#)

### 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 & 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 & 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](#)

### 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 & Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League & Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news & astronomical information to our membership & to the public.

Whether you are new to astronomy & 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, & take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Meetings are free & open to the public.

**Details & RSVP:**

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





The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values. Since 2002, our all-volunteer chapter has served West Central Florida. Won't you support us? [Join our community today.](#)



Rick O'Keefe,  
Coordinator

***Should You be Worried? Do you wonder why we need your [membership & support?](#)***

## **Nassau County textbook challenge: “Bacteria to man evolution is not supported by science”**

by Brandon Haught, Florida Citizens for Science

<http://bit.ly/2BqtVwD>

Nassau County is the first school district I'm aware of that has been faced with a citizen's challenge to topics in the schools' science instructional materials. I told you about this back in early November ([Nassau County complaint: “stop promoting this scientifically inadequate theory of evolution as fact to our students”](#)). The disgruntled citizen is 71-year-old Jay Shutt who says he retired after 40 years of teaching. His complaint to the school district earned him an official hearing in front of an appointed hearing officer Nov. 1. I obtained the materials from that hearing (Download here: [Evolution Materials Nassau County](#)). It's a lengthy PDF that contains Shutt's original complaint, the script he read from during the hearing, and the hearing officer's summary of evidence.

Here's his opening:

*It is my goal to demonstrate to the Board that the material concerning evolution presented in the 3 textbooks I reviewed are not entirely accurate, objective, balanced, and noninflammatory, nor are they suited to the needs of the students.*

His script is a good old fashioned romp through one quote mine after another straight out of the standard creationist playbook. It starts with attacks on the veracity of evolutionary theory, then evidence for a young earth, and by the end of the 15 page lecture he's preaching about the merits of the Bible as 100% accurate in all things. Here's his finale:

*However, my hope and prayer is the Nassau Board of Education will not only mandate macro-evolution and an old earth not be taught as facts, but will allow Bibles to once again be distributed to our students. And further the Board would use its influence with the state of Florida to bring back legalized corporate prayer and Bible reading to our schools.*

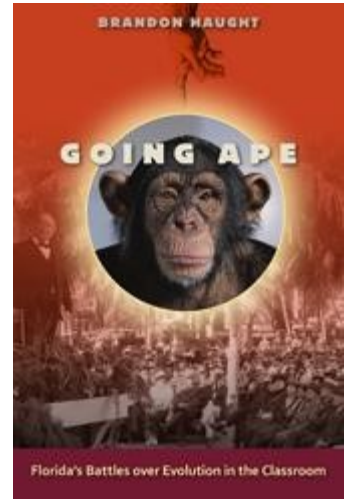
That's really reaching and it's not what the school board will consider at its Dec. 14 meeting. Instead, they'll consider whether to put disclaimer stickers in all of the science textbooks that feature evolution. Here's Shutt's suggested disclaimer sticker:

*This book contains material that leads the reader to believe that “bacteria to man” evolution and an old earth of 4.5 billion years are proven scientific facts. Creation scientists would argue that there are dozens and dozens of scientific observations that indicated the earth is young, only several thousand years old.*

*Additionally, creation scientists would argue that bacteria to man evolution is impossible because (1) living things only come from living things, not from matter and energy. (2) living cells need information to live and function. That information must come from an intelligent source. It cannot come from matter and energy, and (3) life is too complex to be explained by natural selection and chance beneficial mutations. The human genome has 3 billion base pairs, and the human brain operates faster than 30 trillion calculations per second, exponentially faster than any computer. Cont. next column.*

### [GOING APE:](#) [Florida's Battles](#) [Over Evolution in](#) [the Classroom](#)

"William Jennings Bryan launched the creationist crusade from his home in Florida, and the state has been a battlefield in the evolution wars ever since. In *Going Ape*, Haught provides the definitive blow-by-blow account of the Sunshine State's ninety-year struggle over the teaching of evolution." ~ Glenn Branch, deputy director, National Center for Science Education



*If you don't know if you are a current member of Center for Inquiry, or if you are a current donor, please send me an email so I can check for you. Include your current phone & address with ZIP+4, please. I'll look it up and let you know.*

Thanks for your support. It means quite a bit to this old volunteer!

Cordially,  
Rick  
[tampa@CenterForInquiry.net](mailto:tampa@CenterForInquiry.net)

### **Textbook challenge cont.**

The recommendation the school district staff is making to the board is to “Continue using the challenged textbooks without placing a disclaimer in them.” You can see that document here: [Cover Sheet Agenda Statement for Textbook Challenge Nassau](#). However, I'm a bit worried that during the hearing, the only counterargument presented by the school district was that replacing the textbooks would be expensive.

Read the rest: <http://bit.ly/2BqtVwD>



16  
years in  
Florida

## Support CFI Tampa Bay—Join Us Now!

Center for Inquiry is a 501(c)3 Educational Non-Profit. Memberships and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

When you become a [member](#) or make a [donation](#), you become part of a worldwide movement of humanists, skeptics, atheists, and freethinkers, all working together to give voice to our values. Thank you! [http://bit.ly/CFI-TampaBay\\_Support\\_Us](http://bit.ly/CFI-TampaBay_Support_Us)

For more information about CFI Tampa Bay, contact branch coordinator Rick O'Keefe at [tampa@centerforinquiry.net](mailto:tampa@centerforinquiry.net). To learn about making a special donation, talk with Martina Fern, V.P. for Philanthropy, [mfern@centerforinquiry.net](mailto:mfern@centerforinquiry.net) (716) 636-4869 ext. 426, (800) 818-7071 ext. 426

New & Improved website: <https://CFITampaBay.org>. Please visit, then comment: what would you like to see?

## BRANDON: Thank Goodness for Godless Friday Nights! (Skeptics in the Pub)

Carl Hominid has been conducting not only the monthly [CFI Sunday Skeptics in Brandon](#) lunch and discussion. Carl has started a Friday night CFI Skeptics in the Pub gathering for those who prefer to wind down for the weekend. Next chance to share your views with our friendly and rapidly growing group of freethinkers: *Friday, January 5, 2018*

**List of Fake News Websites:** Before you get too excited about an item you want to share or comment about, make sure the social media item is legit.

The list: <http://bit.ly/2vvrXbb>

## University of South Florida Humanities Institute

For engaging speakers & socials, check the calendar at <http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities>

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

**POINT OF  
INQUIRY**  
WITH **NORA HURLEY  
PAUL FIDALGO**

## CFI's all new "Point of Inquiry" Podcast

*The flagship podcast of the Center for Inquiry is beginning a brand new chapter!*

You can subscribe to [Point of Inquiry](#) in your podcast app of choice, and if you're already a subscriber, well, *don't go anywhere!*

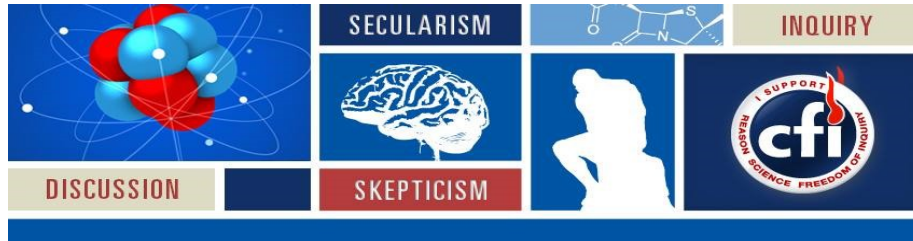
[Margaret Sullivan: Reckoning and Redemption for the Reality-Based Press](#). In the post-truth world, the mainstream media is beset on all sides. Peddlers of propaganda, misinformation, and conspiracy theories seek to strip the media of its authority by creating parallel realities and fomenting anger and mistrust. At the same time, poor editorial judgments and a toxic culture of sexism have landed countless self-inflicted wounds. How can a reality-based press ever hope to fulfill its mission to seek the truth, hold power accountable, and leave the public more informed? Go here for the rest: <http://www.pointofinquiry.org/>

"Humanism believes that the individual attains the good life by harmoniously combining personal satisfactions and continuous self-development with significant work and other activities that contribute to the welfare of the community." ~ Corliss Lamont

If you won't participate,  
why expect others to do the work?

Click below

**JOIN NOW**



## CFI Resources for freethinkers

### ◆◆ Education

**Secular Celebrant Program** – The Center for Inquiry has created a [Secular Celebrant Program](#) to train and certify secular celebrants to perform weddings, memorials, and other "milestones of life" ceremonies.

**Science and the Public Ed.M.** – CFI and Graduate School of Education of the University at Buffalo offers the **accredited Ed.M. program [Science and the Public](#)**, available entirely online!

**Research in CFI Publications** – Please visit the [CFI Publications and Libraries page](#) for more information.

◆◆ **Community & Campus Outreach** – The Center for Inquiry isn't just a think tank—we're a world-wide movement of humanists, skeptics, freethinkers, and atheists, all working together at the grassroots level to advance scientific and secular values where we live. From social events to educational lectures, community volunteering to national advocacy, CFI members are living proof that there are good, ethical alternatives to religious and paranormal worldviews.

◆◆ **CFI Events** – From weekly book clubs and dinner socials to major lectures with prominent speakers, CFI's grassroots groups host dozens of activities every month. For monthly branch activities, look for a group near you in these lists of [U.S.](#) and [international](#) CFI Branches, and then check out their individual event calendars.

◆◆ **The CFI Virtual Community** – We know it's not always possible to make it to a CFI event, but that doesn't mean you have to miss out! CFI has a thriving online community where the freethinking never stops:

CFI's nonprofit [YouTube channel](#) allows us to make available hundreds of hours of CFI programming for FREE. You'll find this programming on our [CFI YouTube channel](#). If you'd like, you can subscribe to the CFI channel and you'll be notified every time we add a new program to the list.

CFI's Podcast [Point of Inquiry](#) is the premiere radio show and podcast of the Center for Inquiry featuring interviews with the leading minds of the day, including Nobel Prize-winning scientists, public intellectuals, social critics, and renowned entertainers. You can listen to the episodes on your computer, copy them to a CD for your car or home stereo, or download them to your iPod or MP3 player, in addition to hearing the show on a few dozen campus and community radio stations across North America.

**CFI's Blog – [Free Thinking](#)** features thought provoking commentaries and analyses of topics affecting you, from some of your favorite thinkers.

**CFI's Discussion Forum** – If you're looking for more of a two-way discussion, the [CFI Forum](#) is the place for you. You'll find lots of different topics where you can jump right in and join the freethinking and debating. Meet other people from all over the world who share your values and participate in CFI's "virtual community" online.

◆◆ **Advocacy** – *The Center for Inquiry advocates for reason, science, freedom of inquiry and humanist values* through the following specialized policy and political programs:

**The Office of Public Policy (OPP)** – works on three levels:

*At the grassroots level*, the OPP works with CFI Centers and Communities on policy within the state and at the state level on federal issues. The OPP trains Friends of the Center to influence state and local level legislation, take part in political campaigns, and run for office.

*At the federal level*, the OPP lobbies the U.S. Congress and the Administration in three areas: science and reason; secularism, and humanist ethics. The OPP also cooperates with powerful coalitions to influence legislators through individual and group communications.

*At the international level*, the OPP supports the work of CFI at the United Nations by lobbying Congress and the State Department on UN-related issues.

**CFI at the United Nations** – The Center for Inquiry is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status under the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It maintains official representation at UN headquarters in New York and UN offices in Geneva and Vienna, where it works to defend the secular, scientific outlook in the international community.

**Legal Department** – files amicus briefs in cases involving First Amendment rights, reproductive freedom, assistance in dying and other issues of importance CFI and its supporters. Where appropriate, the Center or one of its affiliates, such as the Council for Secular Humanism, may file its own lawsuit. In addition, the Legal Department will also consider offering free legal assistance to individuals who believe that their constitutional rights are in jeopardy or that they have experienced discrimination because they are not religious.

◆◆ **Point of Inquiry PODCAST** with Paul Fidalgo

◆◆ Center for Inquiry's [YouTube Channel](#) videos

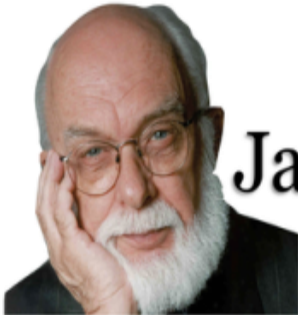
◆◆ **Center for Inquiry FORUM** where your opinion matters

CFI's local [Meetup](#) makes it easy to view & *RSVP* to our activities & 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; & some require prepayment.





Founded in 1988 by *Gary P. Posner, M.D.*, Tampa Bay Skeptics is a nonprofit educational & scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of paranormal & fringe-science claims, & the dissemination of factual information about such claims. [Read More!](#)



## James Randi Educational Foundation



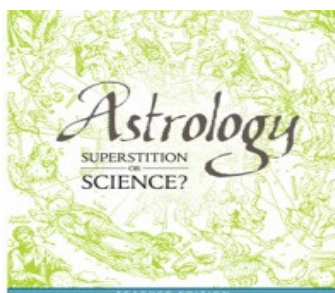
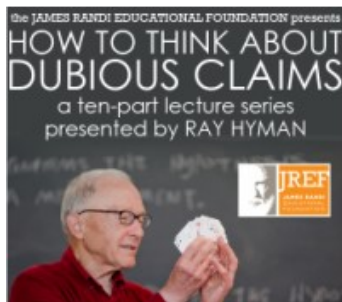
### Free Course: " Science Based Medicine" by Harriet Hall, MD - The SkepDoc

The JREF is pleased to announce the availability of a video lecture series on Science Based Medicine by Harriet Hall.

James Randi said: "It has never failed. Every time my path crosses that of Dr. Harriet Hall, I'm encouraged, enlightened, and informed just a bit more, and my dedication to skepticism is stronger. I urge you to "drop in" on this remarkable lady and learn her opinions and her educated findings about all sorts of medical claims. But be prepared for possible surprises..."

The course is available through our [Educational Module Page](#) or directly on [YouTube](#).

Other free courses provided by JREF <http://bit.ly/2hCkBZZ>



### TBS's "\$1,000 Challenge"

Since 1989 TBS has been offering \$1,000 to anyone able to demonstrate any paranormal phenomenon under mutually agreed-upon observing conditions. If you believe that you are able to do so, please [contact TBS](#).

William A. Blake III of Orlando attempted to demonstrate telepathy in March 2008. [\[Full story\]](#)

Igor Simchanko, in the former Soviet republic of Belarus, attempted to predict Florida Lottery results in 2006. [\[Full story\]](#)

From his home in Prattville, Alabama, Ron Pearce took the TBS "\$1,000 Challenge" by e-mail and phone in 2005, claiming the ability to diagnose medical conditions remotely. [\[Full story\]](#)

Bill Pierce, a dowser of Polaroid photographs, first took the TBS "\$1,000 Challenge" in 2000. [\[Full story\]](#) And he was retested in 2002. [\[Full story\]](#)

Scott C. Frank of Homosassa, Florida, tried to win the TBS "\$1,000 Challenge" at the Winter 2001-02 TBS quarterly meeting. [\[Full story\]](#)

And so it went. TBS has taken its "\$1,000 Challenge" to TV a number of times. Read the details of our [1993](#) and [1994](#) TV challenges, as recounted in *TBS Report*.

As Richard Feynman said, "science is the belief in the ignorance of experts."

## Recommended Reading

Click on the book's **image** for more info

### On Rumors

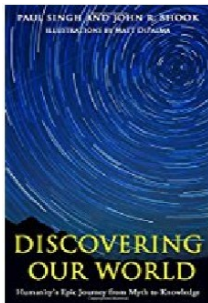
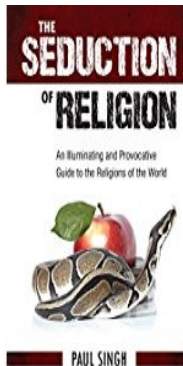


*How Falsehoods Spread,  
Why We Believe Them,  
What Can Be Done*

CASS R. SUNSTEIN  
Coauthor of the New York Times bestseller Nudge

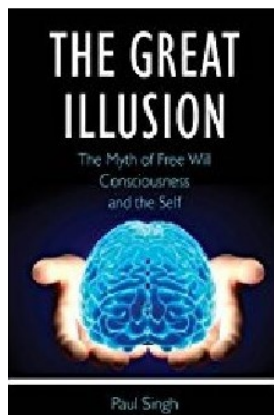
Those who spread rumors know precisely what they are doing. They are sometimes able to derail political candidates, injure companies and reputations, even damage democratic governance. And in the era of the Internet, they know more about manipulating the mechanics of false rumors—social cascades, group polarization, and biased assimilation—than you do.

Dr. Singh, “In this book, I attempt to objectively assess the validity of the various claims of different religions around the world. Most theologians will defend their own religion and criticize all others. This is the only book I am aware of that systematically critiques the blind spots of the major religions and shows the irrationality of all organized religion. I want to provoke and challenge you, if you are a member of a religion, to step back and take a critical look at your religion. I find it to be an enjoyable reference. ROK



Where did everything come from? Why are humans so biologically similar, & why do we let small differences divide us? What shall determine our destiny? Paul Singh & John R. Shook draw on the latest findings from many science realms in search of answers. As they lucidly & engagingly demonstrate, the answers science gives about ourselves & the universe are incomparably more surprising & interesting than any mythical tale about some clash of titans or a calculating creator.

This book presents research that supports the naturalistic stance that the mind is identical to the brain. The author argues that if one were to look at the idea that the mind is the brain then it follows logically that free will must be an illusion, that there can be no consciousness separate from the brain, and that there can be no substantial self that exists independently from the brain. He further argues that there can be no such thing as absolute moral responsibility and provides readers with the overall sense that the survival of the human species will depend on a scientific understanding of the human brain.



**Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought goodies:** Pins, jewelry, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc.

<http://evolvefish.com/> To access more Freethought history & perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prah's Freethought Library. Contact [fpahl@verizon.net](mailto:fpahl@verizon.net)

## The Matt Cooper

### 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

80. **An Atheist Stanger**

81. **Candidate without a prayer**

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 Believe In G.G. Harrison

29. Mathematics and Politics

30. Stealing Elections

31. The God Virus

32. What Every American Should Know About 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** **Michael Shermer**

45. The World is Curved

46. The Snow Ball

47. **The Moral Landscape**

48. **How We Believe**

49. Full House

50. The Origins of Political Order

51. **Asimov's Guide to the Bible**

52. Autobiography of Mark Twain

53. Science Friction

54. Genius

55. Inevitable Illusions

56. Demon Haunted World

57. Being Right Is Not Enough

58. Loser Takes All

59. Taking Back Politics

60. Spiritual Common Sense

61. Autobiography of Mark Twain

62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible

63. **12 Vol Complete Works**

64. On Religious Liberty

65. The God Makers

66. Inevitable Illusions

67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams

69. Bonk

70. What Money Can't Buy

71. Financial Shenanigans

72. Sex & God

73. Best American Non required Reading Dave Eagers

74. Reporting at Wit's End

75. Corporations are not People

76. Could I Vote Mormon for president? Cragan - Phillips

77. Culture of Honor

78. Rot on the Vine

79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker** **New** Kaye

#### AUTHOR

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**Herb Silverman**

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Scott Atran

Jerry Coyne

Panag Khanna

Michael Specter

Richard Dawkins

Sheldon Wolin

Dan Ariely

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Nisbett - Cohen

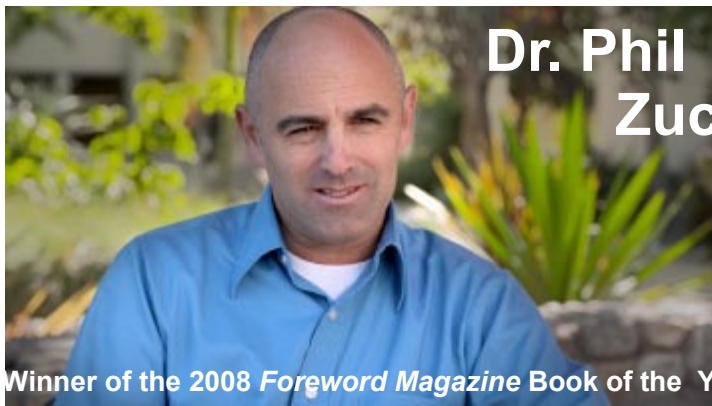
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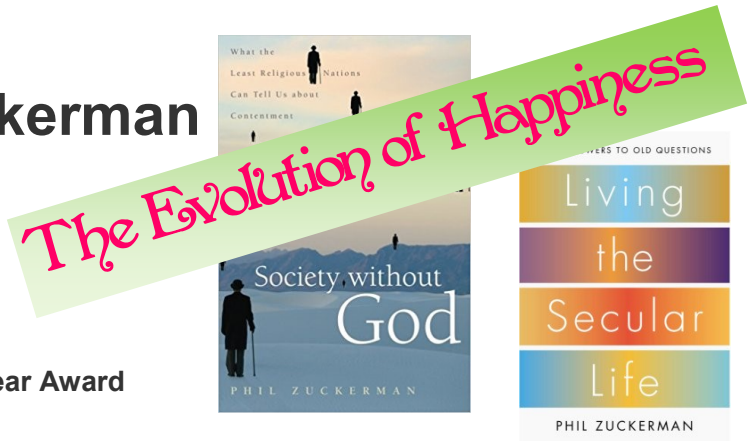
\*  
Essential  
works





**Dr. Phil  
Zuckerman**

Winner of the 2008 *Foreword Magazine* Book of the Year Award



Before he began his recent travels, it seemed to Phil Zuckerman as if humans all over the globe were “getting religion”—praising deities, performing holy rites, and soberly defending the world from sin. But most residents of Denmark and Sweden, he found, don’t worship any god at all, don’t pray, and don’t give much credence to religious dogma of any kind. Instead of being bastions of sin and corruption, however, as the Christian Right has suggested a godless society would be, these countries are filled with residents who score at the very top of the “happiness index” and enjoy their healthy societies, which boast some of the lowest rates of violent crime in the world (along with some of the lowest levels of corruption), excellent educational systems, strong economies, well-supported arts, free health care, egalitarian social policies, outstanding bike paths, and great beer.

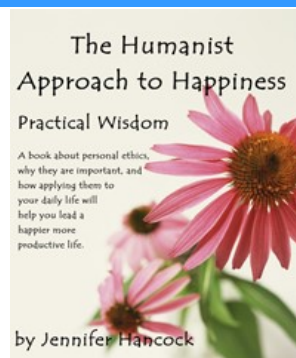
Zuckerman formally interviewed nearly 150 Danes and Swedes of all ages and educational backgrounds over the course of fourteen months. He was particularly interested in the worldviews of people who live their lives without religious orientation. How do they think about and cope with death? Are they worried about an afterlife? What he found is that nearly all of his interviewees live their lives without much fear of the Grim Reaper or worries about the hereafter. This led him to wonder how and why it is that certain societies are non-religious in a world that seems to be marked by increasing religiosity. Drawing on prominent sociological theories and his own extensive research, Zuckerman ventures some interesting answers.

This fascinating approach directly counters the claims of outspoken, conservative American Christians who argue that a society without God would be hell on earth. It is crucial, Zuckerman believes, for Americans to know that “society without God is not only possible, but it can be quite civil and pleasant.”

For more information see, <https://philzuckerman.com/>



**Jennifer  
Hancock**



is a writer and speaker who specializes in [Humanistic Leadership](#) and [Humanistic Parenting](#) topics.

Humanism is a highly effective approach to human development. In fact it is the most humane and holistic approach to ethical philosophy humanity has ever devised.

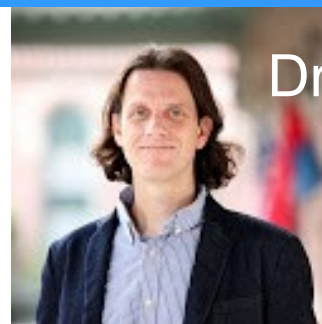
Jennifer is the author of:

[The Humanist Approach to Happiness: Practical Wisdom](#)

[Jen Hancock's Handy Humanism Handbook](#).

[The Bully Vaccine](#), and [The Humanist Approach to Happiness Life Skills Course](#). She is founder of Humanist Families of Tampa Bay.

She is currently working on a book about Humanistic Business Management. In her spare time she writes a freelance column about Humanism for the Bradenton Herald newspaper. You can also find her at the Happiness through Humanism [blog](#) and [podcast](#), as well as moderating [an online Humanist Bible Study](#) group. For more, see <http://www.jen-hancock.com/>



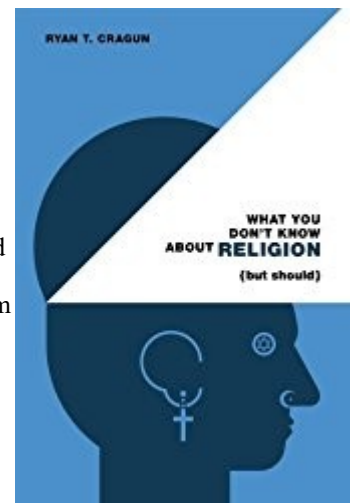
Our Introducer and MC is:  
**Dr. Ryan Cragun**

Ryan T. Cragun (1976-) is a husband father, and sociologist of religion (in order of importance). Originally from Utah, he now lives in Florida and works at the University of Tampa. Ryan’s research and writing focuses on religion, with an emphasis on Mormonism and the nonreligious.

His research has been published in a variety of academic journals,

including: *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Nova Religio*, *Journal of Religion and Health*, and *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. When he’s not working, he’s spending time with his wife and son, watching science fiction, hiking, playing soccer, or tinkering with FOSS, Gnu/Linux, or computer hardware.

For more, see: <https://www.ryanteragun.com/>





# Atheists of Florida, Inc.



Ed Golly, Chair - Al Hann, Vice chair,

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

AoF is a comfortable & safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, & 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 & powerful criticism of the philosophical world-view 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 & changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP

Atheists of Florida is pleased to announce the renewal of its live outreach talk program, the *Atheist Forum*, every Sunday evening, from 7 to 8 pm.



The program is airing on TanTalk Radio. The broadcast is also available **on the internet at [TanTalk1340.com](http://TanTalk1340.com)**, live streaming on smart phones using the “**TuneIn**” application, and on the following frequencies in the Tampa Bay area – **WTAN AM 1340, WZHR AM 1400, WDCF AM 1350, WTAN FM 106.1, and WZHR FM 104.3.** Listeners can call **727-441-3000**, where four lines await your call in of questions and comments. All programs are being archived on the AoF web site, [www.talk.aof.ngo](http://www.talk.aof.ngo).



## 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 state.



### Members of the New 2018-19 Board:

- Al Hann • Andrea Fischer • Brad Perryman
- Chris Brown • Ed Golly • Eileen Stafford
- Jim Peterson • Joe Reinhardt • Judy Adkins
- Sandra Smith • Tracy Thomas

### Officers for 2018

- Chairman- Ed Golly
- Vice chairman – Al Hann
- Secretary – Eileen Stafford
- Treasurer – Sandra Smith

You may contact the board of directors by emailing [BOD@AtheistsOfFloridaInc.org](mailto:BOD@AtheistsOfFloridaInc.org)

### An Atheist Quote (or two)

*Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime; give a man religion and he will die praying for a fish.*

Anonymous

*Men never commit evil so fully and joyfully as when they do it for religious convictions.*

[Blaise Pascal](#)

Atheists of Florida is seeking guests for the *Forum* and will offer advertising on the program for other Freethought organizations to promote their special events or seek membership from listeners. Contact our production office at: [af@talk.aof.ngo](mailto:af@talk.aof.ngo).

The *Atheist Forum* continues an outreach tradition begun in 1993. It affords an opportunity for members of the freethought community, now quite numerous, to have an outlet to explain their position to a broader public, and recruit new organization members. A number of well-known guests will be interviewed and take questions on, important topics of the day and new explorations of hidden aspects of human nature and the natural world. There'll be a few chuckles along the way, and local news too. Tune in and participate; give us your ideas, opinions and arguments. Celebrate the forum's open ended possibilities for expanding our community. Now is the time to make a difference: **you** are that difference. Tune in!

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

## Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008.  
**Carrollwood Cultural Center**, Tampa,  
 every 2nd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.

**January 8th**

**Topic: What Will Happen in 2018?  
 What's Positive? What's Negative?  
 Your Turn to Make Predictions!**

See our Meetup site: [www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/](http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/) for more info.

## The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers



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

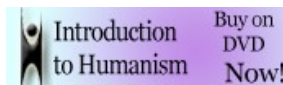
**Jennifer Hancock** started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in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



Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize & 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 & 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 & 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>.



## USF Freethinkers

Join [Freethinkers@USF](mailto:Freethinkers@USF) for genuine, conversational

discourse & a communal atmosphere.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/> for more information.



## Humanistic Judaism of Tampa Bay

Visit the [Meetup](#), or email [Jeff Lipkes](mailto:Jeff Lipkes)

Get the Bank of Wisdom—*FREE*.  
 Contact [Marios Psomas](#), Librarian



## Tampa Bay Technology Center & Thinkers Salon



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

Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. **300 S Duncan Ave. Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755.** [Map](#)

Check out *Thinker's Salon* a forum for serious social & scientific ideas & issues.

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



The mission of the [Secular Coalition for Florida](#) is to increase the visibility of & respect for non-theistic view-points in the State, & to protect & 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, & 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 & officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots requires your involvement.



## [ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay](#)

Hi Friend of ACLU –

There are only a few days left to reach our goal of collecting one million signatures to make sure the Voter Restoration Amendment is on the November 2018 ballot.

[Download, print and sign the Voter Restoration Amendment petition.](#)

Just last week, we heard of and read stories about the thousands of returning citizens in Alabama who voted for the first time after having their voting rights restored. Having the ability to vote allows returning citizens to become full members of their communities again. If we can pull this off, we will be one step closer to giving the ability to vote back to 1.6 million Floridians.

We are grateful for your support of voting rights in our state. And, if you haven't signed the petition, it's not too late. [Download, print and sign the petition.](#) Then mail it back to us. For a list of locations you can mail-in your petitions [visit our website](#). Floridians believe in second chances. Together, we can restore the ability to vote in Florida.



<http://instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/index.htm>



### **Norm R. Allen Jr.**

On Monday, December 4, 2017, I hosted a showing of the documentary *Contradiction*, by Black atheist Jeremiah Camara. I appeared in the 2014 documentary that deals with theism – primarily Christianity – in the Black community.

The film was very well-received and there was a lively discussion that followed. Most of those in attendance were theists and two Afrocentric individuals had some defenses of theism. One man, a local college instructor, made several comments. He did not like the title of the film. He pointed out that rather than a contradiction, Black religion is a paradox.

That is to say, it might appear to be contradictory, but deeper thought reveals its conflicting truths. I disagree. Religion in general and “holy” books in particular are filled with contradictions.

Moreover, the main contradiction that the documentary sought to highlight was the large number of Black churches (estimated at 85,000) in the U.S. with the widespread poverty, suffering, ill health, etc. found among African Americans. If we spend so much time, money and prayer on spirituality, why are we at the bottom where the major quality of life indicators are concerned? That is a blatant contradiction. [Read more here...](#)

## [UU Humanists of Clearwater](#)

Usually every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services, at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.



The speaker for the January meeting on Jan 21st will be **Dr. Ulee Choe**, the Director of the Pinellas County Health Dept. He will review with the UU Humanists of Clearwater the various activities and responsibilities of the Health Dept't.

Lunch on a Dutch Treat basis after Dr. Choe's talk will take place at Carrabba's Restaurant for those who would like to go.



## **A Humanist Discussion group in East Tampa !**

### [UU Humanists of Tampa](#)

Public Discussion, 2nd Wednesday eve from 7-9 PM, & on the 4th Sunday Morning 9:45-10:45.

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



## Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: groups that promote serious secular discussion & activity about important issues in our area & beyond.

Substantive & exciting new activities are now offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

Every year we sponsor events as Darwin Day in February, Solstice day in December, and other activities all year long.

We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason & its director, **Jason Heap**.

You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected in Tampa Bay & 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)  
Or see, <http://tampabaycor.net/>  
Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>

## Positive Postcard Project: A Secular, On-Site Service Initiative

by Tee Rogers

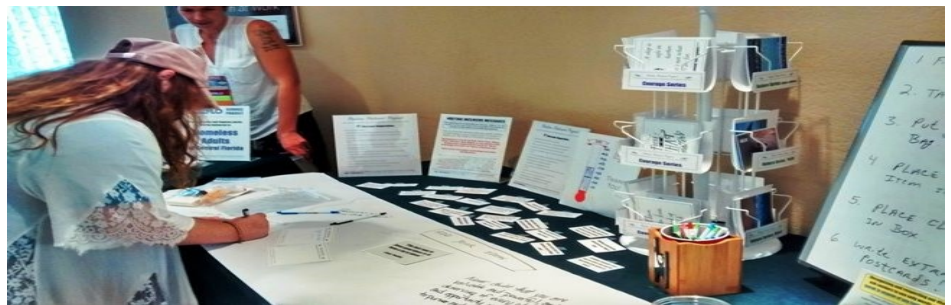
Humanist Chaplain—[BE Orlando Humanist Fellowship](#) (a Cooperating Member of the [Orlando Coalition of Reason](#))

Finding an on-site service project on a small budget can be a challenge. Here’s a meaningful solution and a resource site with everything you need to host this project at your next event, conference, or meeting! The [Positive Postcard Project](#) shares messages of human connection and love that can inspire, comfort, or uplift a recipient of any faith or non-faith perspective.

This is important. Many support card and note projects come from churches and other organizations that are biased towards theism and proselytizing. These cards often contain language that not only isn’t meaningful or relevant to non-theistic people, but can further victimize or even isolate them, thereby increasing their burden, and causing unnecessary grief and anxiety during their times of need.

People who identify as non-theistic are all around us, and they, too, are among those in need. They deserve resources, support, representation, comfort, care, and love. *Positive Postcards* engages secular communities and our secular-friendly allies by providing that support and encouragement. The project can also be hosted at public events, educating theistic faith communities about respecting the diverse perspectives of those who receive cards or letters such as these.

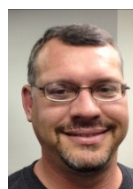
A person’s time of turmoil, challenge, or disadvantage should not be an opportunity to market religious belief or no preference. We don’t know the perspective of the person receiving the card and therefore should craft messages that speak to **any** recipient—unapologetically inclusive and loving. As non-theists, we’re empowered and emotionally intelligent to ensure that members of our shared values community are respected and supported. As Humanists, we have a responsibility to seek the means to uplift others and make the world a better place.



Bill Norsworthy,  
UUCH



Mark Brandt,  
UUCH



Chris Brown,  
MAF



Jenn Hancock,  
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,  
CFI, TBS



Jim Peterson,  
HSS, TBPCF  
Facilitator



Al Hann  
Aof

### TBCoR Leadership Team 2017

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

## 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 & where ....* We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.  
Your **RSVP** is requested, & 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 Freethought Social                         | 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>   | <br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br> |
| 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 see Pg. 2<br>3rd Sunday -Dinner see Pg. 3.           | 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><br>Other events: <a href="http://bit.ly/MARS-home">http://bit.ly/MARS-home</a>   |  |
| TBA - numerous events—this semester                                     | 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! <b>Page 11.</b>  |  |
| 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. Must have read the book under discussion to attend.</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>   |  |
| 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><br><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 Tampa Bay                | Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>   |  |
| TBA – various activities  | TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families                           | <b>RSVP</b> here: Family outings & other activities. Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN">http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN</a>   |  |

**2018 Freethought Cruise With Annie Laurie Gaylor & Dan Barker**  
Sign up now. <https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/> Lvs. Port Canaveral March 3-7, 2018

