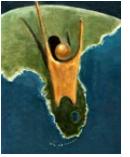




The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason



Freethought News

Vol. 7 No. 3, March, 2018 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors



What's Inside?

Suncoast Humanist Soc	2*
Tampa Humanists	4*
Post Carbon Council	5*
Astronomy clubs	5
CFI Tampa Bay	6*
Tampa Bay Skeptics	8*
ACLU	11
Books/Cooper Library	12
UU Humanists	13
ACLU Tampa Bay	14
Florida Atheists	14*
Tampa Bay Thinkers	15
TB Technology Ctr	15
Humanist Families	15*
Military Atheists	15*
Humanistic Judaism	15
USF Freethinkers	15
Inst For Sci & Hum	16*
Secular Coalition	16
Coalition of Reason	17
Unified Calendar	18

* TB-CoR member

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

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

This publication online at:
www.tampabaycor.net

A New Generation Speaks Out



Students around the country are turning last Month's heartbreaking school shooting in Parkland, Florida into an inspiring push for change

In the past few days, we've heard from students, parents, and teachers asking what students' rights are – and whether schools can discipline students for speaking out.

Plans for coordinated student walkouts have been making national news and have already spurred disciplinary threats from some school administrators. That's why we think it's so important that everyone learns about their rights.

We're inspired by the leadership and courage that students across the country have shown in response to the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School.
- Florida ACLU

And so a new generation of protest sallies forth to meet the weary but oppressive old guard obeying the moneyed interests and preying upon the ancient fears of a populace not well armored in the useful instruments of logic and history.

For those whose answer to predators with guns is yet more guns, they are confronted by the amazingly clear-eyed and rational body of students whose rhetoric seemingly belies their tender years.

The students of Douglass high school have led the way. Propelled by the raw emotion in grieving the lost lives of 17 classmates, these students have met with the President, made known their demands to members of the legislature as well as Congress, and taken to the streets and the internet. This is an incredible example of real First Amendment citizenship.

It might be hoped that this moment might presage a time when our people might gather together in defense of the value of civic life over the simple reflex of fear and the capitulation to jingoistic nationalism. It has always been an option for us to resume our place in the community of democratic and humanistic nations. It's not too late. JP

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 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

PINELLAS COUNTY ACLU 26TH ANNUAL BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER

Tuesday, March 6, 2018
6 - 9 p.m.

Banquet Masters
13335 49th Street North
Clearwater, FL 33762
Cost \$50 PP

[Google map](#)

Nadine Smith, Co-founder and CEO of Equality Florida will be honored with the **Gardner Beckett Civil Liberties Award**.

Mark Puente, a writer for the Tampa Bay Times, will be honored with the **Irene Miller Vigilance in Journalism Award**.

National ACLU President Susan Herman will give the evening's keynote address and provide insight, wisdom, and some reasons to have hope during these challenging time. You'll also hear from **Howard Simon**, ACLU of Florida
Tickets online [here](#)

Our March 3rd Humanist Meeting has been moved. The library is having parking issues. Consequently, the board decided to have a casual social meeting at:

Eva's Kitchen
916 Patricia Ave.
Dunedin, FL
Starting at 2PM

See you next month at the usual time and place below



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

**Saturday, April 7
at 2:00 PM**


Many of our members meet afterward for more talk at

Volume 31 No. 3 March, 2018

It's that time of the year again!!

*Join or renew
Humanist Society of the Suncoast*

Annual Dues

Regular -\$25
Reg. Couple -\$30.
Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin at )
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

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



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 Thanx.





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, March 18th.
at 5 O'clock for good ol' cuisine from the Lone Star state, and good company too, at:

Longhorn Steakhouse

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

5375 East Bay Drive Clearwater, FL 33764
(727) 539-1536

Kindly RSVP to: **(727) 581-2146**
Great Conversation and good food, reasonably priced.

Laugh Lines Actual Intern notes 3-18

She is numb from her toes down.

While in the ER, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.

By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped, and he was feeling better.

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.

She has had no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.

The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 2003.

Patient was released to outpatient department without dressing.

I have suggested that he loosen his pants before standing, and then, when he stands with the help of his wife, they should fall to the floor.

The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.

Discharge status: Alive but without permission.

The patient will need disposition, and therefore we will get Dr. Blank to dispose of him.

Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.

The patient refused an autopsy.

The patient has no past history of suicides.

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,
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~*~*~*~*~*

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor
E-Mail us at:
jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,
click:
[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](#)

March 17th, 11 AM

Leaders: **Lucas Hopegood & Jim Peterson**

Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, & AHA
affiliate.



This month's meeting is Concerned with **Guns & Social Panic**

Gun violence is most often the product of deranged minds enabled by none too restrictive regulations on weapons. But in our own country and around the world, these circumstances are often accompanied by fierce commitments to irrational religious and political fanaticism. Fears inspired by these commitments nourish irrational political responses that retard genuine social progress.

As liberal and democratically minded people we are faced with the necessity of accommodating our heritage of freedom within our obligation to enhance and preserve human life and well being.

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 to resolve the world's most dire conflicts, which often result in genocide, war, and autocracy, is paramount for human coexistence and progress.

As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above and 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, and the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully & critically dissects a new intersection of mind and 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/>



Humanism is a progressive life stance that, without theism or other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead meaningful, ethical lives capable of adding to the greater good of humanity.

Humanist Quotes

3/18

"The secret of happiness is this: let your interests be as wide as possible and let your reactions to the things and persons that interest you be as far as possible friendly rather than hostile."

– **Bertrand Russell**, *The Conquest of Happiness*, 1930

"The things you really need are few and easy to come by; but the things you can imagine you need are infinite, and you will never be satisfied."

– **Epicurus**, *Principal Doctrines*, 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](#)

China takes the lead

Resilience

Imagine a newly elected President of the United States calling in his inaugural speech for an “ecological civilization” that ensures “harmony between human and nature.” Now imagine he goes on to declare that “we, as human beings, must respect nature, follow its ways, and protect it” and that his administration will “encourage simple, moderate, green, and low-carbon ways of life, and oppose extravagance and excessive consumption.” Dream on, you might say. Even in the more progressive Western European nations, it’s hard to find a political leader who would make such a stand.

And yet, the leader of the world’s second largest economy, Xi Jinping of China, made these statements and more [in his address](#) to the National Congress of the Communist Party in Beijing last October. He went on to specify in more detail his plans to “step up efforts to establish a legal and policy framework... that facilitates green, low-carbon, and circular development,” to “promote afforestation,” “strengthen wetland conservation and restoration,” and “take tough steps to stop and punish all activities that damage the environment.” Closing his theme with a flourish, he proclaimed that “what we are doing today” is “to build an ecological civilization that will benefit generations to come.” Transcending parochial boundaries, he declared that his Party’s abiding mission was to “make new and greater contributions to mankind... for both the wellbeing of the Chinese people and human progress.”

It’s easy to dismiss it all as mere political rhetoric, but consider how the current President of the United States came to power on the basis of a different form of rhetoric, appealing to the destructive nationalism of “America First.” In both cases, it’s reasonable to assume that the rhetoric doesn’t exist in a vacuum. Just as Trump’s xenophobic vision spells potential danger for the world, so could it be that Xi’s ecological vision could offer a glimpse to a hopeful future? In fact, this is just the type of fresh, regenerative thinking about transforming the current global economic system that many in the environmental movement have been calling for. And this hasn’t been lost on some leading thinkers.

David Korten, a world-renowned author and activist, has [proposed expanding the vision](#) of Ecological Civilization to a global context, which would involve—among other things—granting legal rights to nature, shifting ownership of productive assets from transnational corporations to nation-states and self-governing communities, and prioritizing life-affirming, rather than wealth-affirming, values.

Within a larger historical context, it’s not too surprising that this vision of “harmony between human and nature” should emerge from China. Traditional Chinese culture was founded on a worldview that perceived an intrinsic web of connection between humanity and nature, in contrast to the European worldview that saw humans as essentially separate from nature. Early Chinese philosophers believed the overriding purpose of life was to seek harmony in society and the universe, while Europeans pursued a path based on a different set of values—which have since become global in scope—driven by “conquering nature” and viewing nature as a machine to be engineered.

Furthermore, Xi’s rhetoric does seem to be grounded in at least some reality. Two months before Xi’s speech, China announced they were [more than doubling](#) their previous solar power target for 2020, after installing more than twice as much solar capacity as any other country in 2016. This new target—five times larger than current capacity in the U.S.—would entail covering an area of land equivalent to Greater London with solar panels. They are similarly exceeding their wind power targets, already boasting more capacity than all of Europe. More on

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

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, & 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*

Humanism is a democratic and ethical lifstance which affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. It stands for the building of a more humane society through an ethics based on human and other natural values in a spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. It is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality.

– *The International Humanist and Ethical Union*

The Spirit of Those Times:

The Constitution, Slavery, and the District of Columbia with Simon Gilhooley

Presented by the Humanities Institute at USF, Tuesday, March 20th, 2018 in CWY 206, 6:00 pm - Reception to follow.

Simon Gilhooley, assistant professor of political studies and American studies at Bard College, will talk about how the rise of abolitionism in the 1830s saw renewed attention to the topic of slavery in Washington, D.C. For abolitionists, slavery in the nation's capital represented a failure to live up to the standard professed in the Declaration of Independence's claim that "all men are created equal."

For the advocates of slavery, attempts to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia were seen as the first steps to abolition throughout the nation and were thus to be resisted. This talk traces how the process of these debates about the U.S. Constitution and its meaning developed in important ways - both for the future of slavery in the United States and for American understandings of constitutionalism more generally.

Gilhooley is a recipient of a prestigious ACLS Fellowship for the 2017-2018 academic year, and the USF Humanities Institute has been proud to serve as his host institution.

C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY) - Pay-by-Space in Lot 21 or Lot 6

Daryl Bem and Psi in the Ganzfield

By Susan Blackmore
SKEPTICAL INQUIRER Vol. 42.1, January/February 2018

Stuart Vyse's (2017) article about Daryl Bem and p-hacking was disturbing. The most serious implication is that Daryl Bem, a famous and well-respected psychologist, has been guilty of "an unethical manipulation of data in search of statistical significance" to support claims of the paranormal. Such manipulation is especially serious in this field for three reasons.

If evidence for the paranormal were found, the implications for the rest of science would be profound.

There is very little evidence for the paranormal—and Bem's claims are frequently cited as providing it.

Many people believe in the paranormal and look for evidence to back up their belief. If a researcher as respected as Bem claims there is reliable evidence, many people will be convinced, with serious consequences for the public understanding of science.

I have further reasons for worrying (Read the rest here: <https://www.csicop.org/si/>)

From weekly book clubs & 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. & international** CFI Branches. Then check out their individual event calendars.



Did your CFI membership lapse? Find out—please send me an email so I can check for you. Include your current phone & address with ZIP, please. I'll look it up & let you know.

Cordially,
Rick
tampa@CenterForInquiry.net



16
years in
Florida



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

Friday, March 2, 2018, 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM, Every 1st Friday of the month. Thank unions for weekends; and thank goodness for godless Friday nights!

This is your Center for Inquiry Brandon Skeptics in the Pub monthly Friday night event - with possible expansion to twice, thrice or weekly - depending on popularity. So, bring your friends!

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>

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!*

{*Stay tuned for a break in the weather & the flu in Western New York.*} Go here for: www.pointofinquiry.org/



HOW WOULD GOD FEEL THEN?

Robert Ingersoll In the sixth chapter [of Matthew] I find the following, and it comes directly after the prayer known as the Lord's Prayer:

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses."

I accept the condition. There is an offer; I accept it. If you will forgive men that trespass against you, God will forgive your trespasses against Him. I accept the terms, and I never will ask any God to treat me better than I treat my fellow-men. There is a square promise. There is a contract. If you will forgive others God will forgive you.

And it does not say you must believe in the Old Testament, or be baptized, or join the church, or keep

Sunday; that you must count beads, or pray, or become a nun, or a priest; that you must preach sermons or hear them, build churches or fill them. Not one word is said about eating or fasting, denying or believing. It simply says, if you forgive others God will forgive you; and it must of necessity be true. No god could afford to damn a forgiving man. Suppose God should damn to everlasting fire a man so great and good, that he, looking from the abyss of hell, would forgive God ...

... how would God feel then?

University of South Florida
Humanities Institute

For engaging speakers & socials, check the calendar at <http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities>
Select [previous lectures](#) are available on YouTube.

The Spirit of Those Times: The Constitution, Slavery, and the District of Columbia

with Simon Gilhooley

Tuesday, March 20th, 2018
in CWY 206 USF
6:00pm - Reception to follow.



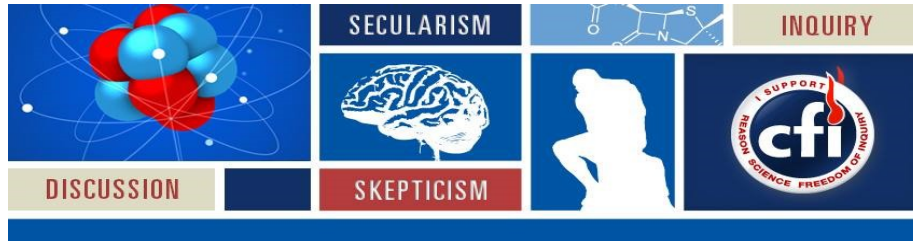
Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed, is more important than any other one thing. — Abraham Lincoln

Non-participation is a negative personal choice.



Click below

JOIN NOW



By [Tom Watkins](#), I am a card-carrying skeptic and believe only what I can prove <http://bit.ly/2GpO7Nr>

Q. Can Reading the Bible Convert Atheists?

A. Please read all of this answer to get the full response. Your comments are welcome.

But before you read this, I ask you, “Have you read the bible?” Do you believe in it - that it is the divine word of God? Actually, I have read the bible twice. The first time, I was really put off by what I read. It made me wonder if my faith in God was justified.

Here are just some of the parts that I had real problems with:

- 1) “I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.” (1 Timothy 2:12)
- 2) “This is what the Lord Almighty says... ‘Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’” (1 Samuel 15:3)
- 3) “Do not allow a sorceress to live.” (Exodus 22:18)
- 4) “Happy is he who repays you for what you have done to us – he who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.” (Psalm 137:9)
- 5) “So the man took his concubine and sent her outside to them, and they raped her and abused her throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go. (Judges 19:25-28)
- 6) “In the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error.” (Romans 1:27)
- 7) “And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, ‘If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whoever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord’s, to be offered up by me as a burnt-offering.’ Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah; and there was his daughter coming out to meet him with timbrels and with dancing. She was his only child; he had no son or daughter except her. When he saw her, he tore his clothes, and said, ‘Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low; you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.’” (Judges 11:30-1, 34-5)
- 8) ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show

you.’ (Genesis 22:2)

- 9) “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:22)
- 10) “Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the cruel.” (1 Peter 2:18)
- 11) These passages reflect a morality that I did not think that was advocated by my religion and yet there they are in the bible.

Like I said, I read it twice. The second time I wanted to compare it to history books of the times and region. I also got into a bible study group that would trace various verses back to their original text language (usually Aramaic) and then take a more careful translation back to English to see if the bible used the right words. Again, I got hung up on passages that seemed like they were not very Christian. Like these:

1st Samuel 6:19 in the King James Version: “And he smote the men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men (50,070)”

Deuteronomy 25:11-1: If two men are fighting and the wife of one of them comes to rescue her husband from his assailant, and she reaches out and seizes him by his private parts, you shall cut off her hand. Show her no pity.

"When a man sells his daughter as a slave, she will not be freed at the end of six years as the men are. If she does not please the man who bought her, he may allow her to be bought back again." (Exodus 21: 7-8)

Read the rest here on Quora: <http://bit.ly/2GpO7Nr>

If you believe in all of the bible and that it is the divine word of God, then ALL of his commandments should be followed. How do you reconcile this cognitive dissonance?

CFI Tampa Bay thanks *David Vangsness* and *Carl Shulz* for their ongoing work in organizing monthly socials and the S.H.A.R.E. Book Club. Well done, friends!

READ THIS: 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!](#)



THE “POLITICAL” CLIMATE

by Gary P. Posner

My July 2015 column in these pages summarized how I grew up believing in flying saucers until befriending Philip J. Klass in my 20s. Klass was the world’s premiere UFO skeptic and chair of the UFO Subcommittee of what is now the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, publishers of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine. And because the “true believers” needed little excuse to further vilify him, he was even more fastidious with his UFO writings than with his award-winning aerospace journalism, and I learned the art of critical analysis at his knee.

Perhaps it is no mere coincidence that several of us formerly closely associated with Klass share a politically incorrect position regarding *Skeptical Inquirer’s* reporting upon “climate change.” One recently felt the need to resign from CSI after a prominent decades-long stint. Another has told me of his encounter with a CSI climate expert who became red-faced enraged upon hearing his skeptical thoughts. Another distinguished CSI member has shared his views only privately, presumably for fear of what often happens to the careers of those who question the dogma surrounding such a politically charged issue.

And rather than accepting my advice that it engage with a skeptical climatologist like Judith Curry, *Skeptical Inquirer* (January/February 2018, pages 61-62) instead (mis)used a letter from me as fodder for an “exchange” on “climate-science criticism” with two of its climate experts. As detailed at http://gpposner.com/climate_change.html, the piece’s introduction lacks crucial context, and Michael Mann’s claims are at variance with this proclamation from NOAA: “It is premature to conclude that human activities ... have already had a detectable [i.e., clearly distinguishable from natural variability] impact on ... hurricane ... activity.”

The politicization of climate-change science is pernicious. Participation in a moral crusade, even one as noble as saving the planet, should not require enucleation of one’s critical eye.

Judith Curry retires, citing 'craziness' of climate science. By Scott Waldman, E&E News reporter
Climatewire: Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Judith Curry, one of climate science’s most vocal critics, is leaving academe because of what she calls the poisonous nature of the scientific discussion around human-caused global warming.

Curry, 63, is retiring from her tenured position as a professor at the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She’s instead going to focus on growing her private business, Climate Forecast Applications Network, which provides insights into climate and weather risks for agriculture and energy companies.

The climatologist, who distinguished herself in the field decades ago with research into the Arctic and the causes of the climate feedback that have shaped the region, writes a blog called Climate Etc. It is by turns academic and inflammatory.

There she occasionally mocks what she calls “climate alarmists” who say time is almost out unless humanity weans itself off fossil fuels. In her blog and on Twitter, she has also criticized some of the scientists, including Pennsylvania State University climatologist Michael Mann and Harvard University climate historian Naomi Oreskes, who have become leading voices for climate action. She has testified in front of Congress, boosted by politicians who use her work to argue that environmental regulations and a scaling down of fossil fuel use will be ineffective. Her work is frequently invoked by climate skeptics and denialists. Congressional Democrats, displeased with her conclusions, have investigated the source of her funding.

Curry actually believes, along with the vast majority of climate scientists, that humans are warming the planet, and was even an outspoken advocate of the issue during the George W. Bush years. She was among the first to connect global warming to hurricanes, for example, publishing an influential study in *Science* in 2006. But where she breaks with the majority opinion is over just how much humans are actually causing global temperatures to rise.

Cont on Pg. 10



Not all information is created equal!

Continued from page 9

My way of looking at it is that the evidence that we do have leads me to think that things are not as bad as what they're predicting. However, if they are right — and they could be, I acknowledge that — if they are right, the policies we've put into place are woefully inadequate. I can hope that the more pragmatic people that Trump is appointing will come up with more pragmatic ways of dealing with the vulnerabilities that we do have to climate change, whether it's caused by humans or it's caused naturally, and how we should deal with the potential risk of a lot of warming from humans.

Read the entire Curry article here:

<http://bit.ly/2ETAqZU> <http://bit.ly/2ETemib>

Evaluate your results / Evaluate your sources

Just being in print or available via the Internet doesn't guarantee that something is accurate or good research. When searching the web, it's important to critically evaluate your search results:

Look for articles published in scholarly journals or sources that require certain standards or criteria be met before publication.

◆ **Look for materials at Web sites that focus on scholarly resources** (e.g. Google Scholar)

◆ **Compare several opinions** by scholars in your topic field is another way to verify or evaluate your sources.

◆ **Consult your instructor.**

The CRAAP TEST

Tips on Evaluating Sources

Some things to consider in evaluating the quality of research sources:

Currency: the timeliness of the information

- ◆ How recent is the information?
- ◆ Can you locate a date when the page(s) were written/created/updated?
- ◆ Based in your topic, is it current enough?

Reliability: importance of the information

- ◆ What kind of information is included in the website?
- ◆ Is the content primarily fact, or opinion? Is the

information balanced, or biased?

- ◆ Does the author provide references for quotations and data?
- ◆ If there are links, do they work?

Authority: the source of the information

- ◆ Can you determine who the author/creator is? is there a way to contact them?
- ◆ What are their credentials (education, affiliation, experience, etc.)?
- ◆ Who is the publisher or sponsor of the site? Are they reputable?

Accuracy: the reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the information

- ◆ Is it accurate? Is it supported by evidence?
- ◆ Is the information balanced or biased?
- ◆ Was it peer-reviewed?
- ◆ Can you verify the information from another reliable source?
- ◆ Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?
- ◆ Can you determine who the author/creator is? is there a way to contact them?

Purpose: the reason the information exists

- ◆ What's the intent of the website (to persuade, to sell you something, etc.)?
- ◆ What is the domain (.edu, .org, .com, etc.)?
- ◆ Are there ads on the website?
- ◆ How do they relate to the topic being covered (e.g., an ad for ammunition next to an article about firearms legislation)?
- ◆ Is the author presenting fact, or opinion? Who might benefit from a reader believing this website?
- ◆ Based on the writing style, who is the intended audience?

The CRAAP Test was developed by librarians at Santa Clara State University, Chico.



Scholarly vs. Popular articles

How can you tell the difference between a scholarly and popular article?

Scholarly or Peer Reviewed articles

- ◆ These are written by and for faculty, researchers or scholars.
- ◆ They use scholarly or technical language and tend to be longer and include full citations for sources.
- ◆ Peer reviewed or refereed which means articles are reviewed by other scholars before being published.

Popular Magazines and Newspapers articles

- ◆ These are usually written by journalists or professional writers for a general audience are shorter with a broader overview.
- ◆ They not evaluated by experts but by the magazine editors or staff.
- ◆ Usually lack full citations for sources used.

For even more detailed help see our "Distinguish between Scholarly and Popular Journals" guide. <http://bit.ly/2C7noHd>
Thanks to the UC Santa Cruz Research Library for this guide.



Annual Meeting

Join the *Greater Tampa Chapter of the ACLU of Florida* for a meet & greet, lunch, program, and chapter elections. Help us celebrate a year of unprecedented membership growth (now more than 5,000 members!). Learn about the ACLU of Florida's non-partisan organizational strategies for 2018, focusing on voter registration & criminal justice reform.

March 3, 11:30 am

Brio, International Mall, 2223 N. West Shore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33607

Tickets are \$45 or a Table of eight for \$350.

* Tickets include buffet lunch. Cash bar for cocktails.

Required: Purchase tickets here: <http://aclufl.org/2018TampaAnnualMeeting>

Scholarships/fee waivers for this event are available.

Join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aclufltampa/>

Greater Tampa Chapter includes Hillsborough, Hernando, Polk, Pasco, and Sumter counties! Paid up members may vote for the new board members. Join us here: <https://action.aclu.org/give/join-aclu-florida>

BRIO Tuscan Grille is located off Bay street. Next to The Renaissance Tampa Hotel- International Plaza. Wi-Fi Available.

"At BRIO Tuscan Grille in International Plaza Mall, you will discover our Italian menu, drinks and our cozy atmosphere. Bringing the pleasures of the Tuscan country villa to Tampa. Enjoy the best Italian restaurant dining experience!"

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

Slowly but surely though, we moved ever closer to real self-government.

1920: Women get the vote.

1924: Native Americans get the right to vote in federal elections.

1964: We amend the Constitution to outlaw poll taxes.

1965: Congress passes the Voting Rights Act, designed to get rid of all the devices that keep African-Americans from voting.

1990: The Americans with Disabilities Act says polling places should be accessible.

But now we're reversing course. All these new schemes are justified in the name of preventing fraud. Read the rest here:

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/speakeasy/let-people-vote>

Hi Friend of ACLU –

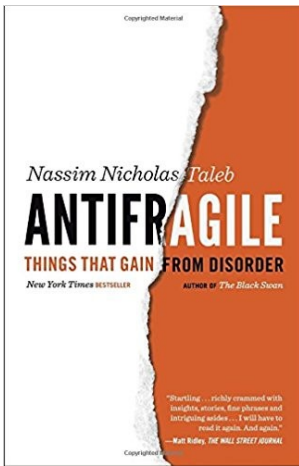
Together, we've taken the Trump Administration to court on so many issues this year – including working to protect LGBT rights, reproductive rights, immigrants' rights, privacy rights, voting rights, and more.

We couldn't have fought even half as many battles, half as fervently, without supporters like you.



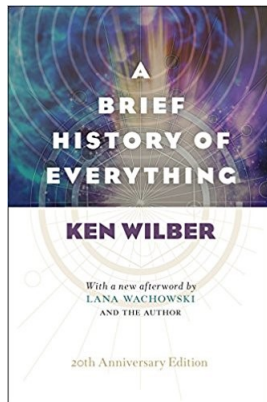
Recommended Reading

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

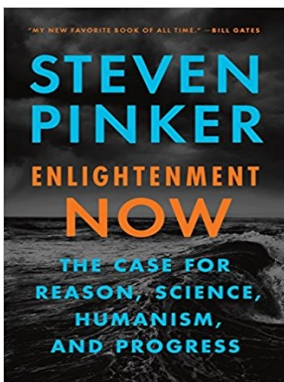


Antifragile: Things That Gain from Disorder Outrageous thinking - so original and yet very ancient. The author uses a "doer" versus "talker" comparison and he is quite the doer. His writing can be entertaining and blunt, but often confusing. I think he would be proud of having one idea, the opposite of fragile is not robust but rather a quality that we don't have a name for so he calls it antifragile.

A new edition of the best-selling work from one of the most forward-thinking and important philosophers of our time. Join one of the greatest contemporary philosophers on a breathtaking tour of time and the Kosmos—from the Big Bang right up to the eve of the twenty-first century. This accessible and entertaining summary of Ken Wilber's great ideas has been expanding minds now for two decades,



The follow-up to Pinker's groundbreaking *The Better Angels of Our Nature* presents the big picture of human progress: people are living longer, healthier, freer, and happier lives, and while our problems are formidable, the solutions lie in the Enlightenment ideal of using reason and science.



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 Prahl's Freethought Library. Contact

fprahl@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 Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!**
Donations appreciated.

TITLE

AUTHOR



- 80. **An Atheist Stanger** Herb Silverman
- 81. **Candidate without a prayer** Herb Silverman
- 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 Niiose
- 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 Hawking
- 25. Breaking the Spell Daniel Dennett
- 26. **The Philosophy of Humanism** Corliss Lamont
- 27. The Quotable Atheist Jack Huberman
- 28. 50 Reasons People Believe In G. 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 Malcom Gladwell
- 36. Sway Ori, Rom Brafman
- 37. The Better Angels of our Nature Steven Pinker
- 38. Letter to a Young Contrarian Christopher Hitchens
- 39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded Thomas Friedman
- 40. Gaming the Vote William Poundstone
- 41. Subversion Fable Alexa KcKearing
- 43. Evolution and the Big Question David Stamos
- 44. **Why People Believe Weird Things** Michael Shermer
- 45. The World is Curved David Snick
- 46. The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
- 47. **The Moral Landscape** Sam Harris
- 48. **How We Believe** Michael Shermer
- 49. Full House Steven Jay Gould
- 50. The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
- 51. **Asimov's Guide to the Bible** Isaac Asimov
- 52. Autobiography of Mark Twain Harriet Smith, Editor
- 53. Science Friction Michael Shermer
- 54. Genius James Gleick
- 55. Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
- 56. Demon Haunted World Carl Sagan
- 57. Being Right Is Not Enough Paul Waldman
- 58. Loser Takes All Mark Crispin Miller
- 59. Taking Back Politics Cathy Allen
- 60. Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
- 61. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
- 62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
- 63. **12 Vol Complete Works** Robert Ingersoll
- 64. On Religious Liberty Roger Williams & Davis
- 65. The God Makers Baker & Hunt
- 66. Inevitable Illusions M. Piatrelli-Palmarini
- 67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
- 69. Bonk Mary Roach
- 70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
- 71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
- 72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
- 73. Best American Non required Reading Dave Eagers
- 74. Reporting at Wit's End St. Clair McKelway
- 75. Corporations are not People Clements
- 76. Could I Vote Mormon for president? Cragan - Phillips
- 77. Culture of Honor Nisbett - Cohen
- 78. Rot on the Vine Stenesh
- 79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker** New Kaye

* Essential works

Thoughts and Prayers for Parkland School - A Response from AoF to Senator Marco Rubio



Marco Rubio
@marcorubio

Follow

Just spoke to Broward School Superintendent. Today is that terrible day you pray never comes.

3:34 PM - 14 Feb 2018

Prayers didn't keep this from happening – what a surprise. As a Christian, do you believe that only through Christ can someone enter heaven? Do you believe that any of the people who died in this shooting should be in hell? Do you believe that the 5 Jewish people who were killed will be in hell forever?

According to an article in the LA times, you have been the beneficiary of \$3,303,355 in campaign spending by the NRA. What are you praying for? Are you praying for the strength to actually do something that could help prevent future shootings or are you praying that the NRA will not withdraw their funds from you?

It is time to introduce a ban on assault weapons similar to the one passed in 1994. Only make it stronger and make it permanent.

It's time to have stronger background checks and to close the loopholes that allows anyone to buy a gun without a background check.

It is time to improve mental health services in the United States.

It is time to do something positive and not waste our time with prayers, which you state clearly in your tweet, don't work.

If you are really concerned, you should be present at the March 24th "March for our lives" which is being organized by students, people who are citizens of your state, who are, or will soon be, voters.

Please listen to your constituents, we may not have the money the NRA has, but we can, and will, vote.

Keeping up with Jennifer...



I am going to New Delhi. I have been asked to participate in a happy workplace conclave to discuss humanistic business management and how to use science to stop bullying in the workplace. While I am there, I have also been asked to speak to 450 teachers at the Shri Ram School - to talk to them about how to use behavioral science to stop bullying behavior. I am very excited about this.

The other good news is that I am making progress on getting my online programs converted into streaming video, DVDs, books, audio books and ebooks.

The latest is Reality Based Decision Making for Effective Strategy Development: <http://amzn.to/2ED0Pfd>

Also available in multiple formats is Socratic Jujitsu: How to Win Arguments Without Arguing: <http://amzn.to/2sH3orc>

And Why Bullies Bully & How to Stop Them Using Science: <http://amzn.to/2FgldyE>

Of course, all of these courses and more are available at: <https://humanistlearning.com/programsoffered/>

I have also been working with translators to get my books translated into different languages. Finally - my new course - How to De-Escalate Conflicts Using Behavioral Science is available for registration: <https://humanistlearning.com/de-escalate-conflicts/>. Please note that I will be out of town until March 1st, so there may be a delay in getting you registered onto this course. It is also only pre-approved by SHRM as I am waiting on HRCI approval. But a general certificate of completion is available.

Thanks and take care.

Jennifer Hancock

Also, see Pg. 15



UU Humanists of Clearwater

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

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

...True Divider from Pg. 16

After surveying more than 10,000 teachers, it found an increase in incidents involving such racist symbols as swastikas and Confederate flags. There were also multiple references to immigrants. (ibid.) Never has large numbers of scientists expressed so much worry about a U.S. President. (Even George W. Bush did not prompt this much concern.)

Never have so many mental health experts been so concerned about a sitting U.S. president (not even when Ronald Reagan was struggling with aging issues.) Never have so many Nobel laureates been so worried about a U.S. president. Trump genuinely scares a lot of people! Trump came to power largely as a result of White racism and xenophobia. His diehard supporters continue to be conservative and reactionary White Christians and White nationalists. They are worried that the U.S. is becoming too diverse. Trump continues to serve this base, further dividing the country. And many pundits believe the divisions will never be healed. How ironic that those professing to be the most patriotic U.S. citizens might be the ones most likely to destroy the nation! Trump is a disaster for the world. The only question is: How bad will it get?

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**, 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.



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.



In God We Trust?

The Florida House has passed Bill 839 - requiring all schools to display the state motto - in god we trust, in every school room. Rep Kimberly Daniels has been quoted as saying – “so simple, just saying put a poster up to remind our children of the foundation of this country.” She has also said – “He is not a Republican or a Democrat. He is not black or white,” Daniels said. “He is the light, and our schools need light in them like never before.” This makes clear that this bill is about promoting religion in the school system, specifically Christianity.

The legislation is also under 1003.44 Patriotic programs of the Florida Statutes. I guess you can't be patriotic unless you believe in god?

The Senate has not taken any action so far on the companion bill - 1158.

Please contact your senator to express your views on SB 1158. It is obvious that if the state motto were something not involving religion this bill would not be going forth.

List of Senate contact information - <https://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/ADMINISTRATIVEPUBLICATIONS/sdir.pdf>

You could also express your views to the leadership:
President' office – 850-487-5229
Majority office - 850-487-5184
Minority Office - 850-487-5833

Let Atheists of Florida know if you get a response from your senator concerning this bill. Call 478-227-5263 or send an email to admin@AtheistsofFloridainc.org We must act to protect the First Amendment. JMA

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.

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

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.

Monday, May 14, 2018

Topic: Cryptocurrency: What is it?

See our Meetup site: 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)
 MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:
MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

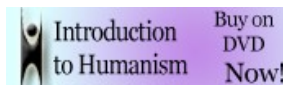
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a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

discourse & a communal atmosphere.

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

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



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](#)

Today, the Second Chances Campaign's Voting Restoration Amendment qualified for the November 2018 ballot. We want to say *thank you* to all of our supporters and volunteers for your work that brought this effort to this historic point.

Florida has the most restrictive voting ban in the nation. The opportunity for a second chance is an American value, and the Voting Restoration Amendment will give Floridians who have completed their sentence the opportunity to fully participate in our democracy. You have been a critical part of the effort to collect over one million petition signatures for the Voting Restoration Amendment, and now we have qualified for the November 2018 ballot.

We are thrilled that the Voting Restoration Amendment has been officially certified for the ballot and that Florida voters will have an opportunity to support second chances in November. [Sign up to say you're in and take action with us on this important effort.](#)



Donald Trump: The True Divider By Norm R. Allen Jr.

When Barack Obama was President, conservatives complained that he was divisive, even though he went out of his way to try to work with Republicans. Conservatives have also complained that the Clintons have been divisive. However, these conservatives seem to think that anyone who does not agree with them must necessarily be divisive. (Not that being divisive is necessarily bad. After all, anti-slavery advocates were divisive, as were civil rights advocates, feminists and anyone else that has advocated for freedom, justice and equality.)

However, Donald Trump is truly divisive in a very horrible way. As a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and as someone who has worked for organizations serving vets for years, I had heard criticisms from vets of Democratic and Republican presidents. But I had never heard a single vet say that she or he would not want to fight for any U.S. president – until Trump came to power. I shared my observation with other vets, and many of them said that they, too, would not fight for this Commander-in-Chief.

This is just my anecdotal story, though, and although I found my experience very odd, I did not think it meant much. However, there has since been a great deal of hard evidence to support my experience. For example, writing for the Washington Post Writers Group, David Ignatius observed: Looking for perspective on this year [2017] and the one ahead, I turned to several of the nation's most experienced former military commanders.

One of them put it bluntly: America is so divided politically at home that we are becoming vulnerable to our adversaries abroad. America, these retired military leaders fear, is so divided right now that it might be difficult to mobilize for war if that were necessary. ("Trump's risky divisiveness," The Buffalo News, December 30, 2017, p. A9) This is a very important piece of writing. Ignatius goes on to say that if the U.S. faced a serious military threat, the divisions afflicting the country "could be paralyzing." He writes that the problem begins with Trump, "the most unpopular president in modern times."

Indeed, when in U.S. history has any president attacked the FBI? When has any president attacked the mainstream media and accused them of reporting "fake news" every time there was a story he did not like? And most astoundingly, when has a U.S. president (at least since the cold war) so warmly embraced Russia? What in the world is going on? Ignatius points to a poll in December 2017 conducted by the Pew Research Center. According to the poll, Ignatius writes, "partisan divisions are now much more important than religious or educational ones in driving political views." Only a man like Trump could manage to pull that off.

The columnist refers to a Pew study in the spring of 2017 which found that 64% of people around the world had confidence in the President at the end of Obama's second term, while only 22 percent had confidence in the President at the beginning of Trump's term. Ignatius writes: "Those expressing 'no confidence' surged from 28 percent to 74 percent." In the same issue of The Buffalo News, there was an excellent column by Washington Post Writers Group columnist Ruben Navarrette Jr. In "Fanning flames of racism," the columnist relates: After the election, the Southern Poverty Law Center published a report called "The Trump Effect: The Impact of the 2016 Election on Our Nation's Schools."

See True Divider, Pg. 13

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
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.

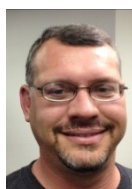
A person’s time of turmoil, challenge, or disadvantage should not be an opportunity to market religious belief or no preference. We don’t know the perspective of the person receiving the card and therefore should craft messages that speak to **any** recipient—unapologetically inclusive and loving. As 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 2018

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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – March 2018 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.net/>



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

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

