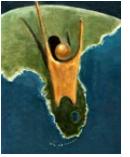


The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason



Freethought News

Vol. 7 No. 9, September, 2018
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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The Florida Leadership Summit

By Brad Perryman



This summer, the Central Florida Freethought Community (CFFC) in Orlando, hosted a Florida Leadership Summit for secular, humanist, skeptic and atheist groups in the state. We had people from Pensacola to Miami and other parts of the state take part in this conclave at the UCF campus in Orlando. It was a great time for networking and learning how others plan and organize successful events.

A plethora of accomplished speakers provided their expertise and insight-building communities, working with national affiliates, and dealing with Church/State violations.

Tee Rogers, CFFC, spoke about the Humanist and Secular Services provided at UCF. Jocelyn Williamson, CFFC, showed us how her work in the interfaith community has helped raise the status of non-believers in Central Florida. Mandisa Thomas, of Black Nonbelievers, provided excellent planning tips for successful events. Sarah Levin, Secular Coalition of America, emphasized the importance of developing and maintaining strong local coalitions (like our own TBCOR). Elizabeth Cavell, the FFRF lawyer whose focus is separating Church and State in Florida, updated us on some of the violations she is dealing with and let us know what we can do to help.

Finally, our own Jennifer Hancock distilled her knowledge on volunteering.

What I would like to do now is to learn from our readers what they want. If you would, please send me an email to let me know what activities get you excited, get you to attend meetings? What topics or events would you like to see in the future? What times and dates are better for you? What area/locations work best for you? And, finally, How can you help? Please send your email to hsuncoast@gmail.com.

Brad is a member of the boards of directors of both the Humanist Society and AoF.

Our October issue will include a survey.

TB-CoR Welcomes

Ethical Humanism

Ethical Humanism, also called Ethical Culture, is an evolving body of ideas that inspires Ethical Societies. Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity ([Humanist Manifesto III](#)). For Ethical Humanists, the ultimate religious questions are not about the existence of gods or an afterlife, but rather, "How can we create meaningfulness in this life?" and "How should we treat each other?"

The American Ethical Union was founded in 1877 by Felix Adler in New York, and currently has over 30 member societies.

Organizer **Bart Worden** hopes to get a local Meetup group started soon.

Freethought Radio moves to Friday Afternoons at 2 PM

Atheists of Florida produces *Atheist Forum*, every **week** for your dining and dancing pleasure.

You will find a variety of subjects discussed, from atheism (of course) to science, politics, ethics, art and social culture.

The broadcast is available on WTAN-1340 and on the internet at TanTalk1340.com

Be sure to call 727-441-3000, with your questions and comments. See page 14 for more.

Check out twenty years worth of past programs of the Atheist Forum on our website www.aof.ngo And check into our channel at www.youtube.com for additional material.

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 17.

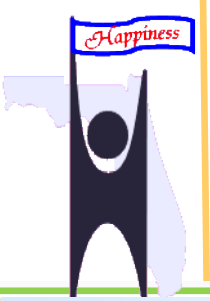
This publication online at:
www.tampabaycor.net

Watch for it...

Seth Andrews



coming on November 10th
at UUC-Humanists



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

Volume 31 No. 9 September, 2018

Wither Democracy?

As always, the question of politics that lies before us is, "how shall we live?" A simple and innocuous question, but one burdened with the uncertainties of ten thousand years of painful struggle, and the endless exploitations and lies of the powerful against the powerless.

The time is ripe for a certain kind of reckoning. Especially at the most fundamental level.

This meeting will be a Hyde-Park open session in which all your critical and most important questions will be answered. Well,... they can get discussed anyway.

Karen Mullins, Chair of the North Pinellas Democratic Committee, and our own **Mark Brandt** will lead this discussion. They are both experienced and knowledgeable activists with a great deal of experience in the local area as well as considerable expertise and acumen in the political process.

The Humanist Society is a 501c-3 organization, and as such endorses neither candidates nor parties. We will do our best to make sure that all opinions will be given a fair hearing, and that all in attendance will have an opportunity to participate.

Our goal here is to stimulate everyone to take their citizen responsibilities seriously, and get active in the process all the way from campaigning to casting that most important ballot, yours.



Karen Mullins & Mark Brandt

Please Join us in:



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

Saturday, Sept. 1 at 2:00 PM

Many of our members meet afterward for more conversation and refreshment not far from the library.



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.

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

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

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>



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

Thai one on with us Sept. 16 at Thai Bay at 5 O'clock for Traditional Thai style cooking, and decidedly the best company:

Thai Bay

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

1300 E Bay Dr, Largo, FL 33771

Phone: (727) 584-5522

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

Laugh Lines Not Rick's Fault

9-18

An Australian bloke sat next to me on the train looking thoroughly miserable "what's up?" I inquired "Just found out I have a half sister" he replied "Different fathers?" I asked "No...shark attack"

I am a dyslexic atheist insomniac who stays up all night wondering if there is a Dog.

The weather report brought back bad memories of my last visit to the homeopathic doctor and part time astrologer. He said "things are looking grim for you, mercury is in Uranus". I said "I don't believe in that quackery, doc". He said "no, my thermometer has snapped in half".

What a con this "evaporated milk" is. I opened a can and it was still full.

I dropped a bag of self raising flour on the floor a month ago and it's still there.

"Hey dad why is my sister called Teresa ?"
"Because your mum loves Easter and it's an anagram of easter !"
"Thanks Dad"
"No problem, Alan"

Want to stop being gullible, duped by every Nigerian royal, or lose weight fast whilst pigging out? Send \$1,500 (cash only) to Dumas, Slump, Lynch and Phail, Atty's at Law.

I sometimes receive mail saying "Final Demand". It never is, though. They keep sending more.

I received a letter the other day from the IRS saying my tax return was 'outstanding.' Although it's lovely to receive such praise, to be honest I can't even remember sending it in.
RO

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
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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](#)

Or call:

Lynda Gurvitz,
<http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/>
(727) 725-8820

Joel Schmidt
www.floatoncounseling.com
321-604-7637



Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

North Tampa Public Library

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

July 21st , 11 AM

Leaders: *Lucas Hopegood & Jim Peterson*

Let's have a conversation about...

Humanism

and why you should become a fierce advocate for a philosophy and way of life that promises to open doors to new ways of thinking and the realization of human potential at all levels.



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



©2012 Photography by Brent Michael



Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, &
AHA affiliate.

AHA Action Alert

By Roy Speckhardt



Recently, a law went in to effect in **Florida** requiring public schools to display "In God We Trust" in prominent locations. Obviously, this is a violation of the separation between church and state, and a policy which will alienate countless nontheistic students all across Florida. Florida's legislators must fix this mistake by repealing this legal requirement and ensuring that our public schools are secular institutions of learning. [Can you take a moment right now to contact your state Representative and Senator and ask them to repeal this bad law?](#)

Our public schools should be places where children learn about math, science, literature, and history, not about belief in a deity. [Tell your state Representative and Senator that you want this bad law repealed.](#)

Humanist Quotes

9/18

"It is possible that some word of me may have come to you, though even this is doubtful, since an insignificant and obscure name will scarcely penetrate far in either time or space."

"A short cut to riches is to subtract from our desires."

"My fate is to live amid varied and confusing storms. But for you perhaps, if as I hope and wish you will live long after me, there will follow a better age. This sleep of forgetfulness will not last for ever. When the darkness has been dispersed, our descendants can come again in the former pure radiance."

"I couldn't face making a merchandise of my mind."

"My anger has very often injured myself, but not others."



Francesco Petrarca "**Petrarch**" 1304-74
Father of Classical Humanism
Father of the Renaissance



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

A Hothouse Earth

By Jon Queally

Warning of a possible domino effect as multiple climate feedback loops are triggered within a dynamic cascade of rising temperatures and warming oceans, scientists behind a frightening new study say that for the sake of humanity's future they hope scenarios explored in their new models do not come to pass.

"I do hope we are wrong, but as scientists we have a responsibility to explore whether this is real," Johan Rockström, executive director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, where the research was done, told the *Guardian*. "We need to know now. It's so urgent. This is one of the most existential questions in science."

Published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), the new study, while not conclusive in its findings, warns that [humanity may be just 1°C away from creating](#) a series of dynamic feedback loops that could push the world into a climate scenario not seen since the dawn of the Holocene Period, nearly 12,000 years ago.

The research, according to its abstract, explores "the risk that self-reinforcing feedbacks could push the Earth System toward a planetary threshold that, if crossed, could prevent stabilization of the climate at intermediate temperature rises and cause continued warming on a 'Hothouse Earth' pathway even as human emissions are reduced. Crossing the threshold would lead to a much higher global average temperature than any interglacial in the past 1.2 million years and to sea levels significantly higher than at any time in the Holocene."



As Rockström explains, the "tipping elements" examined in the research "can potentially act like a row of dominoes. Once one is pushed over, it pushes Earth towards another." And in [an interview](#) with the *BBC*, he added, "What we are saying is that when we reach 2 degrees of warming, we

may be at a point where we hand over the control mechanism to Planet Earth herself. We are the ones in control right now, but once we go past 2 degrees, we see that the Earth system tips over from being a friend to a foe. We totally hand over our fate to an Earth system that starts rolling out of equilibrium."

Such feedback occurrences, the authors of the study write, would pose "severe risks for health, economics, political stability, and ultimately, the habitability of the planet for humans." With Arctic ice and glaciers melting away; increasingly powerful and frequent storms in the Atlantic and Pacific; coral reefs dying from warming oceans; record-setting wildfires in the U.S.; unprecedented heatwaves in Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere—climate researchers have been at the forefront of sounding the alarms about the frightening path humanity is now following.

"In the context of the summer of 2018, this is definitely not a case of crying wolf, raising a false alarm: the wolves are now in sight," said Dr. Phil Williamson, a climate researcher at the University of East Anglia, about the latest study. "The authors argue that we need to be much more proactive in that regard, not just ending greenhouse gas emissions as rapidly as possible, but also building resilience in the context of complex Earth system processes that we might not fully understand until it is too late."

In order to avoid the worst-case scenarios, the researchers behind the study say that "collective human action is required" to steer planet's systems away from dangerous tipping points. "Such action," they write, "entails stewardship of the entire Earth System—biosphere, climate, and societies—and could include decarbonization of the global economy, enhancement of biosphere carbon sinks, behavioral changes, technological innovations, new governance arrangements, and transformed social values."

© Common Dreams.org 8-18-18



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 St. Petersburg College/Gibbs Campus, 6605 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710, 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 7:00 to 9:00 PM. 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

Some of September's activities are:

- à CFI SHARE Book Club
- à Thank Goodness 4 Godless Friday Nights
- à CFI Sunday Skeptics Brunch
- à Tampa Bay Tech Center many activities
- à Brandon Lecture & Lunch
- à Howard's Skeptics Corner
- à 2+ astronomy clubs' meetings
- à N. Pinellas CFI Supper Club

And more at <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l>

Subscribe to our CFI Tampa Bay newsletter here: <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l>, Then scroll down the page until you see the red section with "Receive E-Mails".



**Richard Dawkins
Foundation
for Reason & Science**
A division of the Center for Inquiry

Founded in 2006 by Richard Dawkins, the foundation's mission is to realize Richard's vision to remove the influence of religion in science education and public policy, and eliminate the stigma that surrounds atheism and non-belief .

- ~ See the latest from Richard
- ~ See the latest News

Secular Rescue is a program of the Center for Inquiry that identifies those writers, activists, and everyday citizens in countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Iraq who live under the threat of violence and death. *Secular Rescue* then provides financial and diplomatic assistance to help these courageous freethinkers escape to safety so they can continue to write, work, and live. Last year, The Atlantic profiled *Secular Rescue* and its successes, calling it "[The Underground Railroad that rescues atheists.](#)"

CENTER FOR INQUIRY SUES CVS FOR FRAUD OVER SALE OF HOMEOPATHIC FAKE MEDICINE

The Center for Inquiry has filed a lawsuit in the District of Columbia on behalf of the general public against drug retailer CVS for consumer fraud over its sale and marketing of useless homeopathic medicines. CFI, an organization advancing reason and science, accused the country's largest drug retailer of **deceiving consumers through its misrepresentation of homeopathy's safety and effectiveness**, wasting customers' money and putting their health at risk.

Click here to access the official complaint (PDF).
Article: <http://bit.ly/2NCPzk7>

Wringing Out Excess Water: How I Lost My Faith by [Julia Lavarney](#)

I once heard the concept of religious faith compared to a glass of water. When one is young, the glass is small and so is easily filled with a small amount of water. As one grows older, the glass expands, and the same amount of water no longer fills the glass. <http://Bit.Ly/2wjvp7x>

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
FANTASYLAND

How America
Went Haywire

A 500-YEAR HISTORY

KURT ANDERSEN

"A stunning, sweeping explanation of how we got to Trump...the most important book that I have read this year." —LAWRENCE O'DONNELL, MSNBC

"The single most important explanation, and the fullest explanation, of how Donald Trump became president of the United States . . . nothing less than the most important book that I have read this year."—Lawrence O'Donnell



Did you lose your CFI membership card?

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 & get it replaced.

Cordially, Rick

Mail: bit.ly/2lguaLr



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



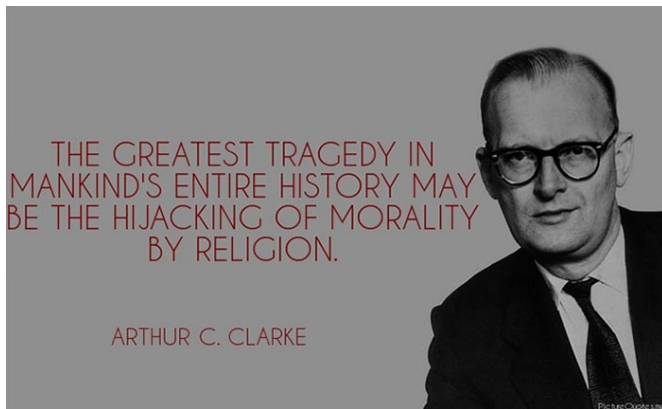
The Morning Heresy is your **daily digest** of news and links relevant to the secular and skeptic communities. What you wouldn't otherwise know.

Religion and the Verdict of History

To evaluate religion's track record we need to specify our evaluative benchmarks and identify whether we are evaluating religion generically or a particular religion.

A religion is a set of beliefs and practices, and my primary benchmark is this: Does it foster or hinder healthy and happy living in the natural world?

All of the many thousands of religions are false, but they are not all false in the same way or to the same degree — so the destructive effects of their falsity come in degrees.



How Would God Feel Then

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?
~ Robert Green Ingersoll

Public opinion is often wrong, mob opinion is almost always wrong, [and] religious opinion is wrong by definition. — Attributed to Christopher Hitchens

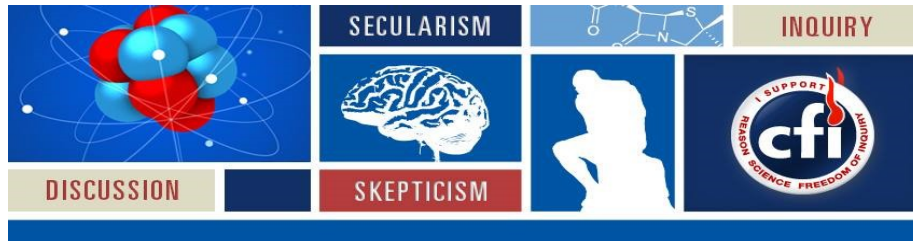
In troubling times, is anything more important to the thinking citizen than her vote? Is it not the only protection we have against a corrupt government?

*NON-PARTICIPATION IS A NEGATIVE PERSONAL CHOICE.
HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO BE POSITIVE?*



Click below

JOIN NOW



A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



ANSWERS TO THE WORLD'S
WEIRDEST QUESTIONS,
MOST PERSISTENT RUMORS
& UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA

Founders of the AsapSCIENCE YouTube Channel

Mitchell Moffit & Greg Brown

"Science is big fun. The Asap guys get that." — BILL NYE "THE SCIENCE GUY"

The instant *New York Times* bestselling book of entertaining, irreverent, and totally accessible illustrated answers to the scientific "questions you had no idea were bugging you all your life" (*Fast Company*), from the creators of the wildly popular YouTube channel AsapSCIENCE.

Why do we get hung over? What would happen if you stopped sleeping? Is binge-watching TV actually bad for you? Why should I take a power nap? In their first-ever book, Mitchell Moffit and Greg Brown, the geniuses behind the YouTube channel AsapSCIENCE, explain the true science of how things work in their trademark hilarious and fascinating fashion.

When you're black there's like no religion to turn to. It's like, Christianity? I don't think so. White people justified slavery and segregation through Christianity, so a black Christian is like a black person with no f***ing memory. — Outtake from the 1989 documentary, "Who Is Chris Rock?"

Author Thomas Nelson, "There's no polite way to say it. Atheists today are the most arrogant, ignorant and dangerous people on earth. ... Yes, these atheists are loud, nasty, unapologetic and in-your-face. But while their arrogance is annoying, it's nothing compared to their ignorance. ... "The truth is, the atheist position is incapable of supporting any coherent system of morality other than ruthless social Darwinism. That's why it has caused more deaths, murders and bloodshed than any other belief system in the history of the world." (From foxnews.com – of course – 3/28/18, and reprinted in July 2018 CDHS newsletter, Humanist Monthly.)

It is not the courage to be that we must develop as much as the courage to become. We are responsible for our destiny. The meaning of life is not located in some hidden crevice in the womb of nature but is created by free persons, who are aware that they are responsible for their own futures and have the courage to take this project into their own hands. ~ Paul Kurtz

Free inquiry entails recognition of civil liberties as integral to its pursuit, that is, a free press, freedom of communication, the right to organize opposition parties and to join voluntary associations, and freedom to cultivate and publish the fruits of scientific, philosophical, artistic, literary, moral and religious freedom. ~ Paul Kurtz

CHURCH AND STATE

"We can rightly call the situation we're in an unprecedented emergency. We urgently need to do – and I mean actually do – something radical to avert a global catastrophe. But I don't think we will." *Stephen Emmott is Head of Computational Science at Microsoft*

"Humans are having a profound impact on the planet. Indeed, our cleverness, our inventiveness and our activities are now the drivers of every global problem we face. And every one of these problems is accelerating as we continue to grow towards a global population of 10 billion. In fact, I believe we can rightly call the situation we're in right now an emergency – an unprecedented planetary emergency [of overpopulation].

"Even the United States' population is projected to grow by 54% by 2100, from 315 million in 2012 to 478 million. I do just want to point out that if the current global rate of reproduction continues, by the end of this century there will not be 10 billion of us – there will be 28 billion of us.

"Where does this leave us?"

... Read the rest and much more news here: <http://bit.ly/2FQVO3t>

READ THIS: TB-CoR's [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. So, sign up if you aren't already participating.



The Center for Inquiry (CFI) leads the charge on promoting science, reason, critical thinking, and humanist values.

A Call to Legalize Physician Assistance in Dying for the Terminally Ill

The position of CFI/OPP is that with appropriate safeguards, terminally ill patients should be allowed the help of physicians in dying. The argument is based on the experience of the Oregon Death with Dignity Act (ODWDA), which is appended to the paper.

Acupuncture: A Science-Based Assessment

Robert Slack, Jr. argues that a robust and growing body of research shows that acupuncture has no intrinsic clinical value. The uncritical adoption of acupuncture adds significant costs to the United States' already overburdened healthcare system, lowers standards of medical training and treatment, and lends dangerous and undue authority to pseudoscience, ultimately degrading respect for science in the public realm.

A Call to the Muslims of the World From Freethinkers and Humanists of Muslim Origins

What the Qur'an Teaches Us: Does Islam really preach peace, tolerance and non-violence? The Muslims who perpetrate these crimes think differently. They believe that what they do is Jihad (holy war). They say that killing unbelievers is mandatory for every Muslim. They do not kill because they wish to break the laws of Islam but because they think this is what true Muslims should do. Those who blow-up their own bodies to kill more innocent people do so because they think they will be rewarded in Paradise. They hope to be blessed by Allah, eat celestial food, drink pure wine and enjoy the company of divine consorts. Are they completely misguided? Where did they get this distorted idea? How did they come to believe that killing innocent people pleases God? Or is it that we are misguided? Does really Islam preach violence? Does it call upon its believers to kill non-believers? We denounce those who commit acts of violence and call them extremists. But are they really extremists or are they following what the holy book, the Qur'an tells them to do? What does the Qur'an teach? Have we read the Qur'an? Do we know what kind of teachings are there? Let us go through some of them and take a closer look at what Allah says. <http://bit.ly/2w1lu50>

Secular Islam is a space for secular Muslims, Ex-Muslims, believers, doubters, and unbelievers, brought together by a great struggle, not between the West and Islam, but between the free and the unfree.

The Center for Inquiry has created and collected pieces from creatives and intellectuals who share the ideals of a secular state that does not endorse any religion, religious institution, or religious dogma.

United Nations

The Center for Inquiry (CFI) is an active non-governmental organization (NGO) at the United Nations, and has held special consultative status under the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2005. CFI has a presence at both the UN headquarters in New York City, and the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

CFI's mission to the UN works to protect and advance universal human rights from a secular, science-based perspective.

The Ethics of Genetic Engineering

David Koepsell summarizes arguments for and against genetic engineering and concludes that it should be understood as an extension of already well-accepted techniques and therefore, with appropriate regulations, the benefits of genetic engineering outweigh its harms.

For God and Country: Religious Fundamentalism in the U.S. Military

James Parco argues that over the past decade there has been a disturbing expansion and entrenchment of Christian fundamentalism in the U.S. armed forces which remains at times both tacitly and overtly endorsed by senior military leaders. Parco examines several case studies that demonstrate a clear pattern of unconstitutional religiously sectarian behavior, then analyzes the merits of the competing philosophical perspectives on the proper role of religious expression by men and women in uniform. He concludes the paper with recommendations that should be implemented immediately.

Global Climate Change Triggered By Global Warming

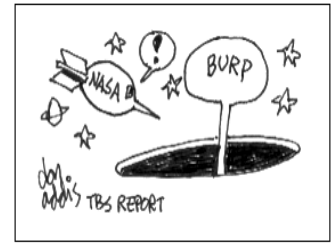
CFI's paper on global climate change, written by Stuart D. Jordan, Ph.D, offers compelling evidence from a large body of research that global climate change caused by global warming is already underway and requires our immediate attention. As the paper explains, the probability is extremely high that human generated greenhouse gases, with carbon dioxide as the major offender, are the primary cause of global warming and that this global warming will produce harmful climate

Office of Public Policy (OPP)

The methods of the sciences are being challenged culturally in the United States today as never before. Despite the success of scientific naturalism in providing us with unparalleled benefits, religious fundamentalists and some postmodernists seek to inhibit free inquiry and to misrepresent the tested conclusions of scientific naturalism. This is a highly charged political issue — both science and secularism are under attack. While a number of organizations lobby and work to defend science politically, only one organization works to defend scientific naturalism in all important areas of human endeavor: the Center for Inquiry.



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!](#)



Thanks to Chris Carnevale of [Southern Alliance for Clean Energy](#)
This is written by Dr. Karl Haven, an expert in aquatic ecology and director of [Florida Sea Grant](#).

What is causing Florida's algae crisis? 5 questions answered

Chris Carnevale's note: *Two large-scale algae outbreaks in Florida are killing fish and threatening public health. Along the southwest coast, one of the longest-lasting red tide outbreaks in the state's history is affecting more than 100 miles of beaches. Meanwhile, discharges of polluted fresh water from Lake Okeechobee and polluted local runoff water from the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee watersheds have caused blooms of blue-green algae in downstream estuaries on both coasts. Karl Havens, a professor at the University of Florida and director of the Florida Sea Grant Program, explains what's driving this two-pronged disaster.*

What's the difference between red tide and blue-green algae?

Both are photosynthetic microscopic organisms that live in water. Blue-green algae are properly called cyanobacteria. Some species of cyanobacteria occur in the ocean, but blooms – extremely high levels that create green surface scums of algae – happen mainly in lakes and rivers, where salinity is low.

Red tides are caused by a type of algae called a dinoflagellate, which also is ubiquitous in lakes, rivers, estuaries and the oceans. But the particular species that causes red tide blooms, which can literally make water look blood red, occur only in saltwater.

What causes these blooms?

Blooms occur where lakes, rivers or near-shore waters have high concentrations of nutrients – in particular, nitrogen and phosphorus. Some lakes and rivers have naturally high nutrient concentrations. However, in Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, man-made nutrient pollution from their watersheds is causing the blooms. Very high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus are washing into the water from agricultural lands, leaky septic systems and fertilizer runoff.

Red tides form offshore, and it is not clear whether or to what extent they have become more frequent. When ocean currents carry a red tide to the shore it can intensify, especially where there are abundant nutrients to fuel algae growth. This year, after heavy spring rains and because of discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee, river runoff in southwest Florida brought a large amount of nutrients into near-shore waters of the Gulf of Mexico, which fueled the large red tide.

The red tide has killed thousands of fish and other aquatic life, and state agencies have issued public health advisories in connection with both blooms. How dangerous are they for humans and the environment?

The public health advisories about red tide are related to respiratory irritation, which is a particular concern for people with asthma or other respiratory issues. But almost anyone, including me, who has walked a beach where there is a red tide will quickly experience watering eyes, a

runny nose and a scratchy throat. The algae that cause the red tide release a toxic chemical into the water that is easily transported into the air where waves break on the shore.

Some people are allergic to cyanobacteria blooms and can have contact dermatitis (skin rash) on exposure. Several of my colleagues have developed rashes after submerging their hands to collect water samples. It is not advisable to purposely contact water with a cyanobacteria bloom. And if farm animals or pets drink water with an intense bloom, they can become seriously ill or die.

How can states prepare for these events?

The onset of algae blooms is unpredictable. We know high levels of nutrients allow a lake or shoreline to have blooms. We even can predict with some certainty that a bloom is likely in a particular summer – for example, if in the preceding spring heavy rainfall and runoff from the land delivered large amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus into the water.

Read the rest [HERE](#).

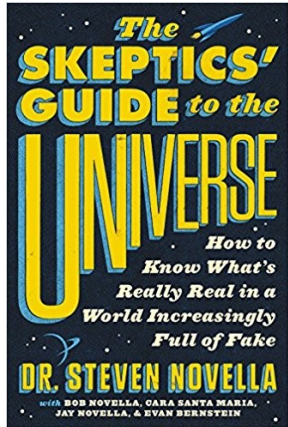


The **Committee for Skeptical Inquiry** promotes science and scientific inquiry, critical thinking, science education, and the use of reason in examining important issues. It encourages the critical investigation of controversial or extraordinary claims from a responsible, scientific point of view and disseminates factual information about the results of such inquiries to the scientific community, the media, and the public.



Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info



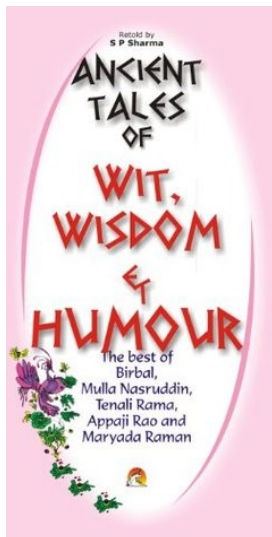
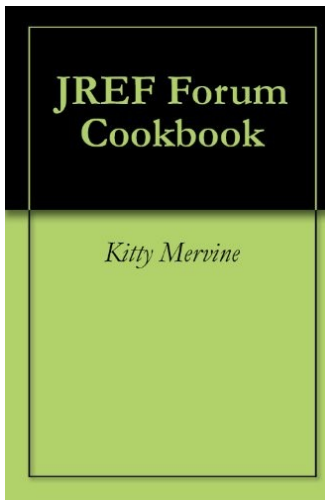
Here is your map through this maze of modern life. Here Dr. Steven Novella and friends will explain the tenets of skeptical thinking and debunk some of the biggest scientific myths, fallacies, and conspiracy theories—from anti-vaccines to homeopathy, UFO sightings to N-rays. You'll learn the difference between science and pseudoscience, essential critical thinking skills, ways to discuss conspiracy theories with that crazy co-worker of yours, and how to combat sloppy reasoning, bad arguments, and superstitious thinking.

From the James Randi Educational Forum comes this taste-full book. It's a steal on Kindle right now—\$0.99!

Many of the recipes date from a thread started in 2006! Even though it's far from perfect (a few typos!) at \$1.49, it's an easy way to help the fund!

It should be noted that recipe number 5, the Orange Cookies, have been described as the "best cookies ever". I myself, adore the Derby Pie (which was a recipe submitted by a bestselling author!).

It's also filled with some fun pictures of past TAMs and Randi moments.



Tales of legendary courtiers and jesters have delighted people for centuries. Through their wit, wisdom and humor, such men saved themselves and others, even their kings, from ticklish situations.

This book covers five such legendary characters. Two are: *Birbal was the most famous wit and one of the nine jewels in Emperor Akbar's court. *Mulla Nasruddin is rated as one of the world's most famous funsters and probably lived in ancient Turkey. A man of the masses, he did not enjoy much royal patronage.

Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought goodies:

<http://evolvefish.com/>

To access more Freethought history & perspectives,

Frank Prah's Freethought Library

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 Stranger** 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 Niose
20. God on Trial Peter Irons
21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond-Robinson
22. The Missionary Position Christopher Hitchens
23. Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff
24. **A brief History of Time** Stephen 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? Cragun – Phillips
77. Culture of Honor Nisbett – Cohen
78. Rot on the Vine Stenesh
79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker** New Kaye * **Essential works**

← New



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!



SC wants *you* to represent the voice of thousands of people of reason in the halls of power.

As our government undergoes its seemingly perpetual crises, 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.

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"



**FOUNDATION
BEYOND BELIEF**

AOF is joining with other FBB teams to collect funds to help the Foundation make grants to address the needs of the children separated from their parents.



Help us

Help Children

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Go to

<http://bit.ly/AOFHelp>

Get Your Shingle Shots Now!

The Food and Drug Administration in 2017 approved Shingrix as the preferred alternative to **Zostavax**, which was approved in 2006. Both **vaccines** are approved for adults age 50 and older for the prevention of **shingles** and related complications, whether they've already had **shingles** or not. If you have already had the first vaccine, get the second; It's much more effective.

University of South Florida Humanities Institute

*** *See you in the Fall 2018 semester!*

For engaging speakers & socials, check the calendar at <http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities>
Many previous lectures are available on YouTube.



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 the top.

The Hotline Project



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UU Humanists of Clearwater

Usually every 3rd Sunday at 12:30 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

Atheists of Florida,



Ed Golly, Chair - Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir.
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



The Atheist Forum



Fridays 2 to 3 pm.

The broadcast is available **on the internet** at TanTalk1340.com, live streaming on smart phones using the "TuneIn" application, www.youtube.com/atheistforum 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.

Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel



Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org



September Events

[Find details by clicking here](#)

Sept 2
Carrabba's
Citrus Park
5pm

meetup

Sept 8
Parkside Café
Pinellas Park
3:30pm

Sept 16
Thai Bay
Largo 5 PM

Sept 23
Jasmine Thai
Brandon
5pm

A Little Religion, Anyone?...



The "Church of Maradona" worships Diego Armando Maradona, one of the best soccer players of all times, as a god. Maradona is an Argentinian soccer player who retired a long time ago, but for some of his fans he is literally a god.

His followers worship him not as a prophet or the reincarnation of some deity but as D10S, a Spanish word "dios" for "god" that incorporates Maradona's jersey number.

All of this should not surprise you because soccer is perhaps the "religion" with the greatest numbers of followers around the world, and if soccer is "religion" then Maradona is its god. Ha!

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New, inc. factory Warranty. **Contact Joe Reinhardt at (727) 544-0414, or Email: wjr22@hotmail** Proceeds help support AoF! (you can too!)

My View...

Atheists are often asked if they can be moral without a god. With all the scandals around the catholic church, it has become apparent that people who profess a belief in god can be appallingly immoral. And I'm not talking about the priests, what they did was reprehensible. But even worse, at least in my view, was the institution's response – to cover it up, blame the victim, shame the victim, use donations to pay hush money, etc. How can the church, as an institution, claim they are an ultimate moral authority on any issue when they have displayed such corruptions?

It is not just the catholic church that has been shown to be crooked and immoral. We remember seeing Jimmy Swaggert crying on TV after confessing to having “sinned” with a prostitute; Jim Bakker embezzled funds, as well as having paid to silence a woman who accused him of “non-consensual sex”; Robert Tilton had people send in prayer requests, which hopefully often included money, then threw the prayer requests into the trash but kept the money; Peter Popoff, who's deceptions were exposed by James Randi; Aimee Semple McPherson preached against sin but was accused of living with a man married to someone else; Amrit Desai, called “guru dev” by his followers, taught that celibacy was mandatory for unmarried people, however, he admitted to having affairs with three of his followers after having taken a vow of celibacy, despite being married; this list of hypocrisy could go on for quite some time.

The child sexual abuse scandal is also not just a catholic church phenomenon. According to an article in by Boz Tchividjian (a former child abuse chief prosecutor and is the founder and executive director of GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment). Boz is also a Professor of Law at Liberty University School of Law, and is a published author who speaks and writes extensively on issues related to abuse within the faith community. Boz is the grandchild of the Rev. Billy Graham. (published on Religious News Service, Dec 7, 2015.)

“A number of years ago, the three companies that insure most Protestant churches reported receiving approximately 260 reports a year of minors being sexually abused by church leaders and members. This is compared to the approximately 228 “credible accusations” a year of child sexual abuse reported by the Catholic Church. (Both numbers are likely underreported and the manner in which such information is collected and determined is another blog for another day.) In reality, the probabilities are that more children are sexually abused in Protestant churches than in Catholic churches.”

“Many Protestant leaders who aren't shy about speaking out on a wide variety of spiritual and cultural issues will often refuse to speak out against specific cases of child sexual abuse. They defend such silence by claiming something like, “We don't know all the facts and don't want to tarnish the reputation of someone who has done so much good.” Tragically, what often seems to be the real reason behind such silence is a fear of losing friendships, speaking engagements, book contracts, and other types of “influence”. It's not just a Catholic problem.”

Before we get too high on our horse, consider, is corruption just an issue with religious groups? Unfortunately, the answer is no. We all remember Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who embezzled large amount of funds from American Atheists; David Silverman who was fired from American Atheists for financial and sexual misconduct; even the celebrated Richard Dawkins has been accused of once callously dismissing “mild pedophilia” as not being a problem. And there are more examples, but so far, no child sexual abuse has been revealed.

So, corruption knows no boundaries, people make mistakes and commit crimes. The real concern is that the institutions are held responsible when they knowingly allow people accused of egregious ethical violations and criminal actions to continue representing the organization in leadership positions without a thorough investigation into the accusations, without dismissing the accuser outright, without blaming the victim, and without paying off victims to keep silent.

While most freethought groups are not as structured as religious groups, it is still our responsibility to speak out against all forms of corruption and criminal behavior, regardless of who is committing it. It is imperative we hold our leaders to a higher standard. Our “movement” is precarious enough without our allowing corruption to be ignored and leaders and members protected from responsibility for their behavior.

Judy Adkins

The author is executive director of *Atheists of Florida*



The mission of the Secular Coalition for Florida is to increase the visibility of and respect for nontheistic viewpoints in the State, and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

The Secular Coalition for Florida is unlike any other nontheistic state organization—it brings together organizations and individuals for the express purpose of lobbying government officials on your behalf. If your organization supports our mission statement, please [sign up here](#). We need your support to keep religious bias out of government.

Sign up for Action Alerts and important updates on state/ church separation in the legislature at the state and national level as well as local government around the state. Our mission — to increase the visibility of and respect for nontheistic viewpoints in the United States, and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all — is more important than ever before.

The Secular Coalition for America is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. Contributions to the Secular Coalition for America are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

The Secular Coalition for America hailed a new study released by the Public Religion Research Institute showing that nearly one-quarter of all Americans (24.8%) have no religious affiliation. The new data confirms that the nonreligious are now the largest “religious group” in the United States.

Tampa Bay Thinkers



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

Monday, September 20, 2018
Topic: TBA

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

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](#).

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.



Tampa Bay Technology Center & Thinkers Salon



We repair our member's computers - Free!

Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. Our new address is 2189 Cleveland Street, Suite 229, Clearwater FL 33765. [Map](#)

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

Find us at:
www.tampa-bay.org



Cultural Jews of Tampa Bay

Formerly, Humanistic Judaism of Tampa Bay
the main purpose of the change is to be able to welcome all who are interested in the history and culture of the Jewish people without any religious, political, or ideological litmus tests.

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

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, Sarah Levin.

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.org/>

Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>

'A Change Is Gonna Come': Poll Shows Democratic Voters Like Socialism More Than Capitalism

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) may believe that the Democratic Party is "capitalist, and that's just the way it is," but a new Gallup poll out Monday shows that support for capitalism among Democratic voters has hit a record low while a steady majority of the Democratic base has a favorable view of socialism.

"For the first time in Gallup's measurement over the past decade, Democrats have a more positive image of socialism than they do of capitalism," Gallup noted in a summary of its findings, which come as socialist candidates continue to surpass expectations, garner widespread enthusiasm, and win elections across the nation.

"Attitudes toward socialism among Democrats have not changed materially since 2010, with 57 percent today having a positive view. The major change among Democrats has been a less upbeat attitude toward capitalism, dropping to 47 percent positive this year—lower than in any of the three previous measures."

Views About Capitalism and Socialism: by Party

| | Positive view of capitalism | Positive view of socialism |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | % | % |
| Democrats/Leaners | | |
| 2018 | 47 | 57 |
| 2016 | 56 | 58 |
| 2012 | 55 | 53 |
| 2010 | 53 | 53 |
| Republicans/Leaners | | |
| 2018 | 71 | 16 |
| 2016 | 68 | 13 |
| 2012 | 72 | 23 |
| 2010 | 72 | 17 |

GALLUP

While Gallup's latest survey was met with the typical and expected fear-mongering from right-wing defenders of capitalism—a system that has delivered immense wealth to the very top in the U.S. while leaving tens of millions of Americans impoverished and unable to afford basic necessities—progressives viewed the new numbers as a good sign but noted that they also show there is still tremendous work ahead.



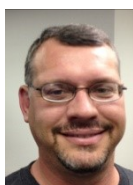
Al Hann
AoF



Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH



Mark Brandt,
UUCH



Chris Brown,
MAF



Jenn Hancock,
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS

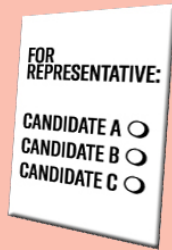


Jim Peterson
HSS, TBPC

TBCoR Leadership Team 2018

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MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! 2018 FLORIDA PRIMARY ELECTION



2018 is a huge year for Floridians, and primary election results will play a major role in the future of our state. Today, early voting kicked off statewide for the Primary Election, so we've made a list of things you need to know or do before you cast your ballot and make your voice heard. [Read our online Let Me Vote 2018 Guide.](#)

Can I vote early? Yes! Early voting starts today, Saturday, August 18 and lasts through Saturday, August 25. Primary Election Day is August 28.

Where is my polling location? Many polling places may have moved or changed. [Check your voter registration information online](#) or call your local supervisor of elections to find your location before heading to the polls.

What identification do I need? You will be asked to provide a valid photo ID with signature at your polling location. There are several

forms of ID that will be accepted. [View a list of them here.](#) 17
If the ID you show doesn't have your signature, you'll have to bring another ID with your signature on it (but it does not have to include your photo.) You will also have to sign your name. If you go to the polls without the acceptable ID, you can cast a provisional ballot. It will be counted if your signature on your ballot matches your signature on your voter registration on file.

How do I file a complaint? In the event you are denied a provisional ballot or experience other problems on Election Day, such as being intimidated by non-election observers, please contact your county Supervisor of Elections office immediately. If that does not resolve the issue, please call the Election Protection Hotline. [All hotline numbers can be found here.](#)

I'm planning to Vote By Mail (VBM). Is there anything I need to know? Yes! If you're planning to VBM, here's what you should do to [track your VBM ballot](#) and ensure that your vote counts.

Non-presidential elections often have a larger impact than presidential ones. Share this email and our online [2018 Let Me Vote Guide](#) with your family and friends to urge them to vote and make their voice heard.

Sincerely,

Howard Simon

Executive Director [ACLU of Florida](#)



Keeping up with Jennifer...

Thinking Freely Speaking Out



Tips to Deal with Conflicts

Compassion: A lot of conflict is a result of holding people to impossible standards. Viewing the other person with compassion will help ensure that when a problem arises, you don't attack in an attempt to fix the problem. Rather you understand that problems happen and work in a collaborative way to resolve the problem.

Don't get drawn into the drama. If the other person is freaking out – don't join them. You can listen and be present without it being about you – even if it is directed at you. If the other person is responding to a problem with anger and frustration - accept that that is where they are and respond in a polite, calm, professional way. Focus on problem solving and not on the conflict. This doesn't mean allowing the other person to walk all over you. It's more about standing your ground in a compassionate, respectful way – while still working to solve the underlying problem.

Note of caution. These techniques won't work if the problem isn't a conflict, but is instead bullying.

I teach how to de-escalate conflicts using behavioral science. Available as a certified online course: <https://humanistlearning.com/de-escalate-conflicts/> or as a book, ebook or audio book: <https://amzn.to/2tkbl2q> or as a streaming video or DVD: <https://amzn.to/2MCaldM>

I also teach: How to handle cranky customers, using the same behavioral science techniques: <https://humanistlearning.com/crankycustomers/>

And why conflict resolution doesn't work when the problem is bullying. <https://humanistlearning.com/conflictresolution/>

My courses are online at: <https://humanistlearning.com>

Thanks and take care. *Jennifer Hancock*



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – September 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.



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Various Sunday, 2 PM; & Friday night | BRANDON–CFI Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Night | Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP: http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I |               |
| 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/2ljTe9I | |
| 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/2ljTe9I | |
| 3rd Saturday, 11 AM | NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc. | Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists | |
| 4th Saturday, 10:30 AM; | CLEARWATER – 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/2ljTe9I | |
| 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/2ljTe9I | |
| TBA – various activities | TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families | RSVP here: Family outings & other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN | |

2019 Freethought Cruise

Nassau-Cuba itinerary. For more details: freethoughtcruise.com. Departs Florida March, 2019

