

# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News

Vol. 3 No. 3 March 2014 Jim Peterson, Editor

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New **COSMOS** series  
With Neil Degrasse Tyson  
Starts on March 9th  
See a [preview](#) here.

It has been more than 30 years since the original Cosmos series first appeared on the screens of PBS viewers. At the time, *Carl Sagan* became one of the most recognized figures on this planet. And Cosmos became one of the most popular programs ever aired.

Now a new Host, also a Humanist, **Dr. Neil Degrasse Tyson** will take over the helm as we chart a new course through the universe, with a higher resolution, newer technology, and more advanced information than ever.

Be sure to watch National Geographic channel or Fox to learn more about our astounding world.

## Darwin Day 2014

# A great Success!

Around 250 people were present to hear **Daniel Dennett**, **Michael Hoffman**, and **Ryan Cragun** discuss the source and consequences of

### *The Evolutionary Route to the Human Mind*

Thanks largely to our corps of great volunteers, everything went smoothly, and most participants seemed well pleased with the opportunity to learn more about our human origins, and what we might anticipate in the future. They liked lunch too!



Doctors seated, **Dennett, Hoffman, & Cragun**  
Special thanks must go to **Tracy Thomas, Chris Brown, Judy Adkins**, and the many UU Humanist Volunteers who made such an extraordinary effort to ensure the logistical efficiency of the operation.

We learned a great deal from this experience which will be applied to future efforts. We welcome your comments about the event, and any suggestions you may have to its improvement.

An opportunity of this magnitude is only possible when sufficient numbers of people come to feel the benefit of being in the presence of great teachers who have much to tell us about ourselves and our world. They stimulate our imagination and ignite our conversations for months afterward.

Read this newsletter for announcements of more such events.




**HUMANIST  
CHARITIES**

[Click to connect!](#)

## Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – March, 2014 Calendar

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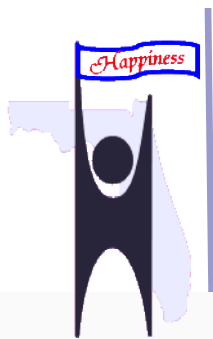
This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where .... We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.

3-01, 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday, 2:00 PM	<b>CLEARWATER</b> – Countryside Library on 580 The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: Regular meeting - <b>See page 3</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/">http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/</a>	
3-09, 1st Sunday, 10:30 AM	<b>Tampa AoF headquarters</b> Atheists of Florida	Details & to <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/</a>	
3-09, Sunday, 7 PM	<b>BRANDON</b> – Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub. <b>RSVP</b> . <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/</a>	
3-02, Sunday, 7 PM	<b>NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD</b> – Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. <b>RSVP at Web site</b> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/</a>	
3-15, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 11:00 AM	<b>TAMPA</b> – North Tampa Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic:: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/">http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/</a>	
3-15 Sunday, 5 P.M	<b>CLEARWATER</b> Humanist Society of the Suncoast See page 4	Sunday Social Dinner for all members, friends and others interested in conversing with Humanists	
3-16, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 3 PM	<b>BRANDON</b> CFI Skeptics in the Pub	Lunch & discussion. Click to <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
3-22, 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 12 noon	<b>NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE</b> – Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. <b>RSVP</b> Details: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
3-TBA, Usually, Every last Monday, 6 PM	<b>N. Pinellas Area</b> CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	<b>RSVP is required</b> if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here <i>before</i> midnight, January 25th. <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
3 - TBA, see <a href="#">Web site</a>	<b>S. PINELLAS</b> – Humanist film Meetup	Feature film TBA <b>RSVP at:</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/</a>	
3-23, Sunday, 12:30 AM	<b>CLEARWATER</b> – UU Humanists,	<b>Regular Sunday meeting.</b> <b>See page 7 for more information</b>	
3-TBA, Saturday, 7 PM	<b>St. Petersburg</b> <b>Astronomy Club</b>	Details, location, & and <b>RSVP</b> to: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club">www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club</a>	
3-TBA	<b>BRADENTON</b> - Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. See page 13 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa">www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa</a> October: Annual Humanists at Disney in Orlando. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/">https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/</a>	
03-00 TBA see <a href="#">Web site</a>	<b>SARASOTA</b> – Humanists of Sarasota Bay	Many events: Details: <a href="#">Web site</a> <a href="http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html">http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html</a>	
3-14 & 22 Friday & Saturday Evening	<b>TAMPA</b> - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club	See <b>Website</b> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi">www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi</a> for all details.	

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

**Watch for major COR events  
scheduled throughout the year !**





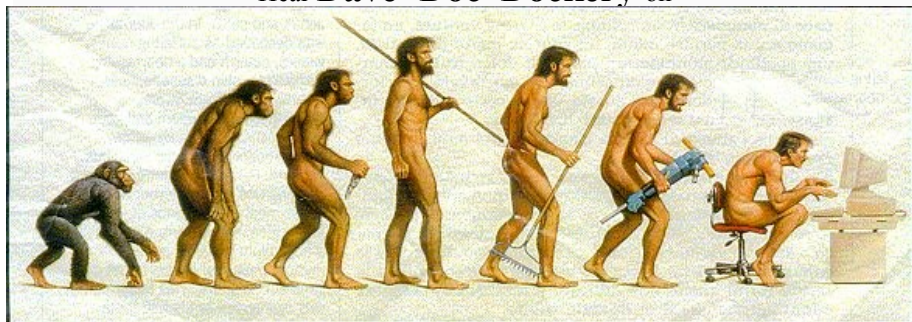
# The Humanist Society<sup>3</sup> of the Suncoast News

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

Volume 22 No. 3 March, 2014

On March 1st...

Hear **Dave 'Doc' Dockery** on



## Further thoughts on the future of our species

Doc, who is president of the Tampa Bay Computer Society has agreed to share some of his perspectives on where and when we are going, and how we might get there. He will expand further on the themes developed in our Darwin Day presentation.

With his unique understanding of technology and the significant role it plays in our lives, he will address such topics as machine 'consciousness' and our growing codependency on our own creations.

"Come join Doc as he explores the current state of research into the workings of the human brain. Brain research is advancing at an awesome clip. We'll take a fascinating look at what's in store for our future."



"Doc"



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

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

## Tampa Bay Harvest

Please join us for  
our next free and  
open discussion.

**Saturday,  
March 1st.  
2014**

**at 2 PM  
at**

**The Clearwater  
Countryside Library  
2741 State Rd. 580  
Clearwater, FL 33761**

**Many members go to  
dinner afterwards**

*Now is the Time to*

*~ Join or Renew ~*

*The Humanist Society of the Suncoast.*

### Annual Dues

- Trial -3 month- free news
- Regular -\$25.
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin)
- Life -\$200.
- Life Couple -\$250.
- Associate -\$10.
- Contribution for growth (See [pg. 5](#))



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

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

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Privacy respected)*

Send tax deductible dues to:  
**Marios Psomas, Treasurer**  
*Humanist Society of the Suncoast*  
1013 Connecticut Rd  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689



\*= optional



## Selling Prisoners to the Highest Bidder

by Roy Speckhardt

State officials in Idaho recently made major news when they [announced that they would be taking control](#) of a private prison which was built by the state in 1997 and run by a private corporation since that time. Under the deficient leadership of the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), multiple crimes were alleged to have occurred and the quality of life for inmates was said to greatly decrease. [According to the Associated Press](#),



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

## What is the Humanist Way?

1. To extend a human centered approach to the critical problems of life and society.
2. To encourage attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance and a loving generosity in human relationships, and in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others and encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture and experience.
3. To develop and popularize the skills of creative and critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition and irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.
4. To exalt those artistic and imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure and enlightenment, and which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, and other expressions, we embrace the essence of what it means to be human.
5. To explore the grounds of ethics and morality within the unfolding history of our evolving culture. Such knowledge will enable us to become effective protagonists for the happiness of the individual person. JP

## The Movable Feast: the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner

# Rumba Island Bar & Grill

1800 Gulf-To-Bay Blvd Clearwater (N.E. Corner of G  
-T-B & Keene) Sunday, March 16th, 2014 @ 5:00 P.M.  
This restaurant has a variety of early bird specials.

**Seafood, Barbecue and Caribbean \$9 and up per entree**

Reasonable priced beers and wines are available also.  
\*Early birds must be ordered by 5:30PM\*

Please reserve by March 15th with Glenn Paul at 727-595  
-3347 or by email at [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com)

Hope to see you there; everyone enjoyed the place the last  
time we were there. Check out [www.rumbagrill.com](http://www.rumbagrill.com) 3/14

## Laugh Lines

*Lexophilia 3-14*

**With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.**

**A boiled egg is hard to beat.**

**When you've seen one shopping Center you've  
seen a mall.**

**Police were called to a day care Center where a three  
-year-old was resisting a rest.**

**Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side  
was cut off? He's all right now.**

**A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.**

**When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.**

**The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now  
fully recovered.**

**He had a photographic memory which was  
never developed.**

**When she saw her first strands of grey hair she  
thought she'd dye.**

**Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.**

**Those who get too big for their pants will be exposed  
in the end.**

Thanks to: *Connie Purdum*

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

### Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

*Lois Fries, Secretary*

*Anita Garcia*

*Dave Kovar, Vice President*

*Beth Maxie*

*Jim Peterson, President*

*Frank Prah*

*Marios Psomas, treasurer*

*Jordan Williams*

*Emeritus members: Terry Eckstien,  
Steve Brown, Jon Green, Mark Kligman,  
Jerry Moore, Mark Winterbottom,  
Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn  
Paul, Don Acenbrach Dec., Jackie  
Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,  
Matt Cooper, Jim Butler*

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

*Jordan Williams, Publisher.*

*Jim Peterson, Editor*

E-Mail us at:

[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)



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

## Tampa Humanist Association



### Tentative next meeting:

Saturday, **March 15th**, 2014, 11:00 AM

Look for the Tampa Humanist Assoc. sign in the lobby.

We will be trying out our **new venue** at:

### The North Tampa Public Library

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

We will have an interesting and convivial discussion around current topics and concerns.



## Laurel & Hardy Fans?

Our local Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the Desert, a film preservation society, is as active as ever, and in need of new recruits as well as the return of old ones.

Wednesday April 19th is the next get together at the Pinellas Park Library at 7. See the web site for more: <http://www.metrodirect.net/Laurel&hardy/>



## Life Ring Secular Recovery

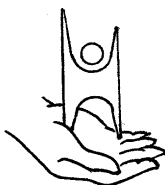
This group meets every Monday evening at 8p.m., at Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church at 2817 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater. The meeting takes place in a modular building at the back of the parking lot.

This is a recovery support group for alcoholics and drug addicts who do not believe in, or feel comfortable with, the idea of a higher power as strongly encouraged in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have any questions, feel free to call 727-772-3360. Or see the website at: <http://www.liferingtampabay.com/meetings.htm>

## A Humanist Helping Hand

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

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



## A Progressive Headquarters for The Tampa Bay area

It has long been a dream for those of us who have struggled to advance the cause of Humanism, critical thinking, environmental awareness, compassionate social policies, and a defense of art, music, and science, to have a real building; a central office in our area.

With the move of AoF from it's current location, comes a new opportunity for our organizations to organize a new cooperative, based on the Coalition of Reason, and dedicated to providing a foundation for a more powerful response to the problems of our world.

Such a building would provide office facilities, meeting space, and storage for equipment and materials for all the constituent organizations.

It will be as close to being a central location as possible; just south of the Tampa airport and easily accessible to the interstate, veterans expressway, and State rd. 60.

To make this dream come true, we need organizational subscriptions and a team of local individual supporters willing to make a small pledge.

Humanism is a way of life, and a commitment to the success of our species. We need concrete institutions to create a sustainable base for the realization of our aspirations.

This is an idea still in the early stages of discussion. If you would like to contribute in any way; whether ideas or financing, please let us know. JP

## Humanist Quotes

“ The present is the necessary product of all the past, the necessary cause of all the future ”

— Robert Green Ingersoll, *The Gods*, 1876



# Florida Atheists



*Atheism sprinting into the future!*

Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Newly elected Leaders of AoF



*Nan Owens, Tracy Thomas, Gloria Julius & Judy Adkins*  
Treasurer, VP - Board Chair - Secretary - President

**AoF outreach programs** can be found at our [Meetup](#) site. Current newsletters are [available](#); write [Athaihle@aol.com](mailto:Athaihle@aol.com). JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#).

Join us on **March 9th at 1:30 PM**, at 5103 Westshore Blvd. Tampa, as we hear from guest speaker, Rob Sherman, Illinois first amendment activist on:

*How the Government retaliates against those who seek to uphold the First Amendment*

Since the rear lot is no longer available, there is plenty of parking along the sides of the building.

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus.

Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts (audio & video). Let us know if you wish to participate. We are a resource for those with questions and doubts about the standard religious narrative of life.

At the same time, we bring a human centered ethic to bear in serving our fellow human beings as they struggle to overcome the delusional psychology of years of religious conditioning.

JP

## Bank of Wisdom

*Electronic publishing to make the world better*

6

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



### National Secular Movement Update

The Secular Coalition has sent [letters](#) to every U.S. House office [urging members of Congress](#) to support [House Resolution 467](#), which would formally recognize, February 12, as Darwin Day. The resolution, which was introduced by Rep. Rush Holt (NJ), currently has eight co-sponsors. According to a recent [Pew study](#), the majority of Americans accept the scientific theory of evolution including many religious sects. Seventy-eight percent of white mainline Protestants accept evolution, outranking all other "religious" groups, including the religiously unaffiliated.

Secular Coalition for America member the American Humanist Association worked with Rep. Holt and his staff on the resolution and will be sending copies of Darwin Day Celebration, a booklet on celebrating Darwin Day and highlighting Darwin's contributions to science and humanity, to all 535 members of Congress to encourage support of the resolution. [Contact your representative](#) now to encourage he or she to support the Darwin Day resolution!



**Freethinkers@USF** is a multicultural, interdisciplinary student society which welcomes USF students who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, humanists, or religiously open-minded who seek to promote reason, compassion, tolerance, and free inquiry on campus. We hope to contribute opportunity for interdisciplinary dialog to the USF community, and build scientific literacy for all to enable objective and rational interpretations of issues affecting our lives. The organization is open to anyone of any religious persuasion or personal beliefs. Write [Rodrick Colbert](#) or [freethinkersusf@gmail.com](mailto:freethinkersusf@gmail.com).

## Clearwater UU Humanists

We are a group of Unitarian Universalists committed to a humanistic and non-theistic worldview. Currently, meetings are scheduled once a month and are usually held on the third Sunday of most months from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services.

The UU Humanists are open to all aspects of humanism, including investigation of religious humanism. However, the focus of the group is on secular aspects of humanism.

Programs have been well received with attendance between 50 and 75. To learn more, please contact: co-facilitators: Bill Norsworthy [bnorsworthy@verizon.net](mailto:bnorsworthy@verizon.net) Mark Brandt [mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu) Web site: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will be meeting on **Sunday, Mar 23**, at 12:30 pm. **Bill Norsworthy and Mike Goodson** will be speaking on **Health care and the Affordable Health Care Act.**



## Florida Now

<http://www.flnow.org/>

NOW is a multi-issue political organization. NOW's self-defined role has been to initiate change for the benefit of the greatest number of people, to affect the legal and institutional structures of the society in a way that systematically expands the choices and possibilities available to all women. In this way, NOW takes action to bring women, as a class, into the mainstream of society, rather than offering aid to individual women in achieving personal solutions or temporary relief from oppression.

The Florida National Organization for Women is a group dedicated to taking action to bring ALL women into full equality and participation through changing policy, law and culture. This mission attracts women and men of diverse backgrounds and gives us the ability to look at the systemic oppression in our lives and determine actions that will bring about change for all women.

Often, we are contacted by women and men who are facing "legal" situations, or in need of individual help. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide direct services, and for legal reasons we can not provide referrals for lawyers or other services. If you need these services, please consider doing an internet search for local attorneys, referral services, legal aide, domestic violence shelters, or other terms that are appropriate for your individual situation. Good luck.

**"...being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead."**

**Kurt Vonnegut**

Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association

## FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU Supporter,  
Pinellas County Chapter of the ACLU Cordially invites you to join us at our 22 annual **Bill of Rights Banquet**

**Join us on Thursday Evening, March 6th, 2014  
At the Manhattan Casino**

642 22nd St. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 \$45/person  
RSVP by Feb.-25 Call (727) 347-4266 (Leave message)

6 to 7 PM Registration, Social Hour, & Cash Bar  
7 PM Opening Remarks,  
Board Elections, Program, and Dinner.

The Gardner W. Beckett Jr. Civil Liberties Award Recipient:

**Bruce Jacob**

The Irene Miller Vigilance Journalism Award Recipient:

**Bill Maxwell**

Also Honoring **Thom Foley & Paul Pohlman**

**People  
Over Politics**



## The Humanities Institute of USF

**Tuesday, Mar. 4 TECO Room (Education Building)**

**6:00pm, reception to follow.**

***Medieval Castles, Lordship and the Making of the English Landscape*, with Oliver Creighton**



Oliver Creighton, a visiting scholar from the University of Exeter, will speak on "Medieval Castles, Lordship and the Making of the English Landscape." He writes: "Castles were among the most dominant features of the English medieval landscape and many remain impressive today. I will present an overview of the impacts of fortification on town and country and highlight the role of lordship in reshaping the medieval world, presenting a case study of power and authority in the landscape."

**Challenge, Create, Connect:** Our new motto focuses our commitment to bring the beauty, values, and lessons of the humanities to our community.

The USF Humanities Institute, provides a forum where ideas are debated, values are clarified, and students, faculty, and community come together to envision a better world through scholarship, debate, and public programs.

We showcase the scholarship of USF faculty from across the disciplines, as well as hosting renowned scholars and sponsoring small conferences and symposia on topics developed with faculty and students. We are strengthening our focus on relevance and community engagement, demonstrating that the joy and challenge of the humanities belong to everyone. [Click here for Our 2014 schedule](#)



# Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

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



TBPCC is an autonomous project of the Humanist Society.  
Just a handful of senators -- including yours -- could make or break clean energy in 2014.

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

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

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

**Calendar:**  
Rick O'Keefe

**Newsletter:**  
**Jim Peterson**

**Web site:**  
Jim Peterson

**Special Projects**  
Mark Brandt

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

While fossil fuel billionaires are raking in enormous profits and taking tax break after tax break, they're scheming to keep the Senate from renewing the provisions that have helped kick-start America's clean energy economy.

Real jobs have already been lost while the Senate drags its feet, and thousands of families face an uncertain future.

**Take action to protect American clean-energy jobs.  
Send a message to Sen. Bill Nelson and Sen. Marco Rubio right now and tell them to renew the wind energy Production Tax Credit.**

Clean energy like wind and solar had a breakthrough year in 2013, and that sent the fossil-fuel billionaires running scared. They're worried that their profits will be blown away by reliable, cost-competitive, American-made wind farms and solar arrays -- energy sources that don't choke our skies with smog and soot and don't dump toxic mercury and selenium into our waters.

So now they're trying to keep more clean energy from going into production by halting the wind energy Production Tax Credit and other clean-energy measures. Every day the Senate waits to act is another day that the fossil fuel billionaires win... **and another day that American workers and their families have to worry.**

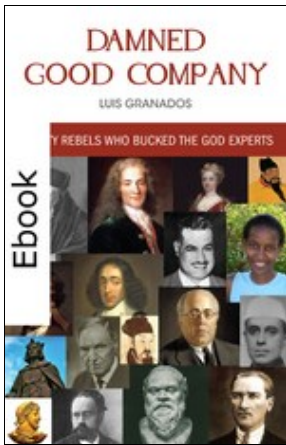
If Sen. Nelson and Sen. Rubio turn their backs on America's clean energy industry, they'll be sacrificing more than jobs -- they'll be sacrificing the health of our families, our communities, and our entire planet.

**Tell Sen. Nelson and Sen. Rubio to protect our health and our future by renewing the wind energy Production Tax Credit.**

Click [www.tampabaypostcarbon.com](http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com) for more. 3/14 JP

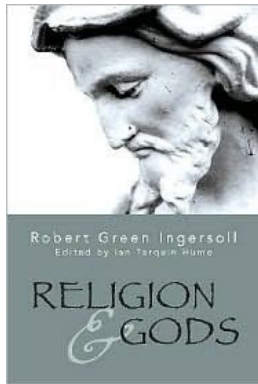


## The Humanist Press



### Damned Good Company By Luis Granados

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

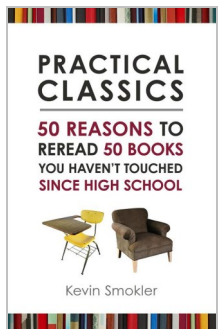


Amid the 21st century's escalating religious tensions, Robert Green Ingersoll's views on the substance of religion and gods offer a firm foundation of logic and independent thought leading to a life examined and a life of happiness free of the shackles of religion. **Prometheus**

Pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

### Evolve Fish

<http://evolvefish.com/>



## Prometheus Press

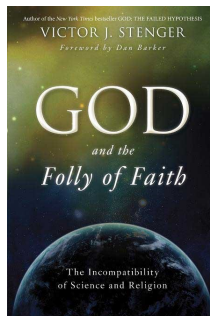
### Practical Classics: 50 Reasons to Reread 50 Books You Haven't Touched Since High School.

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

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

### God and the Folly of Faith: The Incompatibility of Science and Religion By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.

The story of the fight against superstition has been told before, but never like this. Victor Stenger confronts the battle between religious superstition and science with the eye of a trained physicist and the practicality of a superb teacher. 409 pages, Paperback, \$20.00 [Order here](#)



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

## The Matt Cooper

### Memorial Humanist Library.

Humanist Society members (only) can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to Marios Psomas at: [marios\\_psomas@hotmail.com](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com). Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

#### TITLE

#### AUTHOR

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. The Expanding Circle                                  | Peter Singer            |
| 2. In Gods we Trust                                      | Scott Atran             |
| 3. Why Evolution is True                                 | Jerry Coyne             |
| 4. The Second World                                      | Panag Khanna            |
| 5. Denialism   | Michael Specter         |
| 6. The Selfish Gene                                      | Richard Dawkins         |
| 7. Democracy Incorporated                                | Sheldon Wolin           |
| 8. The Upside Irrationality                              | Dan Ariely              |
| 9. The End of Growth                                     | Richard Heinberg        |
| 10. The God Delusion                                     | Richard Dawkins         |
| 11. All That We Share                                    | Jay Wallgasper          |
| 12. Sex, Time, and Power                                 | Leonard Shlain          |
| 13. Sex at Dawn  | C. Ryan, & C. Jetha     |
| 14. What liberal Media                                   | Eric Alderman           |
| 15. The End of Faith                                     | Sam Harris              |
| 16. Plan B   | Lester Brown            |
| 17. The Portable Atheist                                 | Christopher Hitchens    |
| 18. Open Society   | George Soros            |
| 19. Non Believer Nation                                  | David Niose             |
| 20. God on Trial   | Peter Irons             |
| 21. Natural Experiments of History                       | Diamond-Robinson        |
| 22. The Missionary Position                              | Christopher Hitchens    |
| 23. Life Inc.  | Douglas Rushkoff        |
| 24. A brief History of Time                              | Stephen Hawking         |
| 25. Breaking the Spell                                   | Daniel Dennett          |
| 26. The Philosophy of Humanism                           | Corliss Lamont          |
| 27. The Quotable Atheist                                 | Jack Huberman           |
| 28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God.       | G. Harrison             |
| 29. Mathematics and Politics                             | Alan Taylor             |
| 30. Stealing Elections                                   | John Fund               |
| 31. The God Virus  | Darrel Ray              |
| 32. What Every American Should Know About Rest of 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        |

#### **NEW!**

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible | Isaac Asimov          |
| 52. Autobiography of Mark Twain | Harriet Smith, Editor |
| 53. Science Friction            | Michael Shermer       |
| 54. Genius                      | James Gleick          |
| 55. Inevitable Illusions        | Piatrelli & Palmarini |
| 56. Sex & God                   | Darryl Ray            |

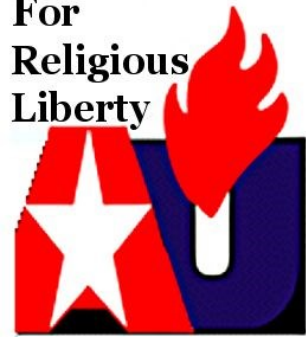
### Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

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

A Tradition of Advocacy

For  
Religious  
Liberty



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

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



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

The Military Association of  
Atheists and Freethinkers



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

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

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

Contact: Chris

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

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

## Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

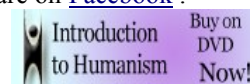
Jennifer is author of several books including; *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP

See much more at: [www.Jen-Hancock.com](http://www.Jen-Hancock.com),

**Humanist Families** organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings and Manatee/Sarasota area outings every month.

Throughout the year we host parties like Darwin Day in February, World Humanist Day in June, Freethought Day at Disney in October and Carl Sagan Day in November.

Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).



## Love and Compassion

Compassion for others is a central aspect of the Humanist philosophy.

Love is in the air and it's a good time to talk about love, compassion and Humanism.

For me, compassion is an important aspect of my practice as a Humanist. It's what makes my practice active, as opposed to passive or abstract.

Compassion, to me, is the extension of love to others. Yes, I love my husband, but he benefits more from me feeling compassion towards him. Not in pity mind you, he's perfectly capable of handling himself. It's rather that through compassion, I remind myself that he is in fact real. And having reminded myself that he is real and distinct and has his own thoughts, that I remind myself to be nice to him, even when I might be frustrated.

The other thing being compassion does, is it helps me to be less frustrated. Which is why, when I am in conflict with someone, which doesn't happen all that often, I remind myself to think compassionately about the person I am in conflict with. I realize it doesn't do anything for them, but I find it helps me to think more rationally about whatever it is that has been going on.

Here is an article about the 8 psychological benefits of being compassionate:

<http://www.spring.org.uk/2014/02/8-wonderful-psychological-effects-of-being-compassionate.php>

Enjoy.

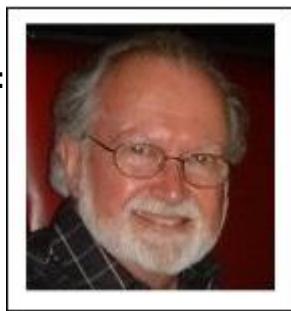
*Jennifer Hancock*



# Institute for Rational Living

is the official psychoanalytical representative of Center for Inquiry:

Institute for Rational Living  
2502 N Rocky Point Dr, Suite 1010  
Tampa, FL 33607-1406  
Office Phone: 1-727-278-8446  
Office Fax: 1-727-391-8459  
[vparr@ishv.net](mailto:vparr@ishv.net)



Vincent Parr, PhD  
Clinical Psychologist at Institute for Advanced Study MRL  
President at Institute for Rational Living

Dr. Parr is a licensed Clinical Psychologist with over 40 years experience in Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) and Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). He also has 23 + years of experience in Mindfulness and Zen. He uses these two very powerful approaches to help people reach freedom -- that is, the freedom that comes from maximally eliminating suffering (often defined as chronic disappointment and frustration) and disturbance (Anger, Anxiety, Depression, and Guilt).

Dr. Parr has been a consultant to the United States Air Force, Hayatt International, Bic Pen Corporation, the City of St. Petersburg, the St. Petersburg Police Department, the Institute for Rational Living, the Institute for Advanced study in Rational Psychotherapy, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Tampa for nine years. In addition, he sits on the national Board of Directors for the Institute for Science and Human Values.



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

## 2013 Report From the ISHV Office of Public Policy

*Toni Van Pelt, Director*



As you may know from following the work of ISHV, we lobby on many issues of interest of the progressive secular humanist movement. An important way we do this is to work in coalition with other groups and organizations. We participate by helping to write and sign onto letters, sending out alerts asking you to contact your representatives, lobbying Congressional members directly, traveling around the country to do civic trainings and participating in dialogues with U.S. and international leaders on how best to advance the movement. In addition we work on the international stage to aid and provide a safe place for those who suffer persecution from radical religionists.

### Charitable Choice and the Presidential Faith Based Office

Since its inception in 2010 ISHV has been actively working to end religious preference in law and public policy. Today ISHV lobbies against the onslaught of religious amendments, acts, resolutions and offices brought on by Congressional members, federal offices and the White House.

[Read more >>>](#)

## AH Appignani Humanist LC Legal Center

### Minnesota Public School Told to End Field Trips to Christian Church

February 3, 2014 – The AHLC has warned school administrators in Golden Valley, MN to stop sending students on field trips to a nearby Christian church to create “manna” packages for a Christian nonprofit group.

### Federal Appeal Filed to End Religious Elements in South Carolina Public School's Graduation Ceremonies

January 27, 2014 – The AHLC is challenging a district court's failure to stop a South Carolina public elementary school from continuing to include religious elements during graduation ceremonies.

### End Unconstitutional Graduation Prayers, Humanist Legal Center Tells Illinois High School

January 22, 2014 – The AHLC is demanding that public high school administrators in Norris City, IL end prayer services during graduation ceremonies.

### Humanist Group to Missouri County Government: Stop Erecting Christian Nativity Scenes

January 10, 2014 – The AHLC demands the Oregon County, MO courthouse remove a Christian nativity display from its grounds.

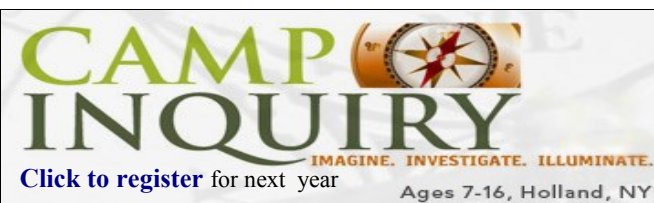
### Arkansas County Must Remove Christian Nativity Scene from Government Property

January 2, 2014 – The AHLC is challenging a Christian nativity scene on the lawn of the Baxter County, AR courthouse.

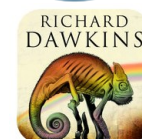
### Find out more about end of life issues.

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

<http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm> or  
[www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org)



Click to register for next year  
Ages 7-16, Holland, NY



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

*The Magic of Reality*

Download it to your I-pad to experience this award winning multi media book.

## Collapse: What's Happening to our Chances?

It's been a little over a year since we tried to assess the probability that today's perfect storm of environmental problems will lead to a collapse of civilization. This seems an appropriate time to see how recent events and discoveries might have changed the odds. The trends in the main drivers of destruction continue unabated. The Population Reference Bureau, which in 2012 projected that the world population in 2050 would be 9.624 billion people, foresaw in 2013 a 2050 population of 9.727 billion, resulting from a slight rise in the global total fertility rate. There is little sign of consumption abating, with purchasing power increasing on average globally (but with great geographic differences). There is growing evidence that anthropogenic climate change is not only raising the global average temperature but also increasing the probability of extreme weather events. The latter have been especially destructive in portions of America's "breadbasket," essential to maintaining human food supplies. Even more worrying, there seems to be an escalating discovery of positive feedbacks such as the melting away of arctic sea ice, which decreases reflectivity and thus accelerates warming while ironically causing nasty blizzards in the northern United States. Warming also leads to even more warming by increasing the flux of the greenhouse gas methane into the atmosphere as permafrost thaws and possibly as methane clathrates (complexes of ice and methane underlying northern oceans) disintegrate as the oceans warm. More positive feedbacks are clearly reducing the odds of keeping climate disruption within "manageable" limits (if such have not already been passed).

Recent analyses of the climate and agricultural situations paint an ever-darkening picture. Indeed, there is building evidence of a likely failure to produce increases in crop yields that would be needed to feed 9 billion people in 2045, even if climate disruption doesn't clobber agriculture. There also are more and inevitably growing problems besetting efforts to obtain the mineral resources needed by industrial civilization.

Finally, there are signs that major powers, especially the United States, China, and Russia, are increasingly competing over resources in ways that could lead to major wars, possibly nuclear. Much of the competition in a disintegrating Middle East is related to access to oil, use of which for energy mobilization and plastic manufacture we would be phasing out if society were moving toward sustainability. The international situation, as historian Margaret MacMillan has pointed out, bears a frightening resemblance to that which preceded World War One. We are ending a long period without world wars but characterized by unprecedented technological changes that environmental/ resource problems are going to make even less understandable. As globalization continues in a situation of intensifying resource competition, reactionary movements held together by new technologies, and lack of trust are rampant in a world still structured into nation states with only weak mechanisms available to deal with global threats. The building military confrontation between China and the United States could end in making all environmental issues moot.

There *is* some good news. Total energy consumption in the United States has been declining under President Obama because of steady increases in efficiency, especially in vehicles. U.S. coal consumption has been going down because electricity generation has been flat and coal's role in it has been diminished by being replaced by natural gas (which, even after accounting for fugitive emissions in production and transport, remains much better than coal in terms of climate change). Of course, this only makes sense as a temporary "bridge" to a much lower carbon mix. U.S. oil production is up, but that may be a short-lived reprieve. Even so, burning domestic oil is better both economically and environmentally than burning imported oil. And although Australia is eager to continue exporting gigantic amounts of coal at huge cost to Australia's environment and to that of the world, the Chinese government is moving rapidly toward a reduction of coal use, and India is being forced in that direction by finances.

There is also a heartening spread of solar technology in poor countries, among other things giving many more people access to modern communications (which, of course can be used for either good or ill!). "No-take" zones (areas where fishing is prohibited) have shown an amazing capacity to regenerate neighboring fisheries. But sadly, the zones cannot control pollution, acidification, or temperature change and thus may rapidly lose their value. Brazil has greatly slowed deforestation in the Amazon with a combination of sound policies and good enforcement of them. And the population prospects for the United States are slightly less grim: the 2012 projection for 2050 of 422.6 million dropped in 2013 to a projection of 399.8.

But what is crystal clear is that these changes are not remotely big or fast enough to make a real dent in the problem. Furthermore, there are no plans nor any tendency toward making the most crucial move required to lessen the odds of a collapse: a rapid but humane effort to reduce the scale of the entire human enterprise by ending population growth, starting the badly needed overall decline in numbers, and dramatically curtailing consumption by the rich. There is not even discussion about the obvious elements of the socio-economic system that support a structure embedding a need for perpetual growth – fractional-reserve banking being a classic target that requires investigation in this context. Virtually every politician and public economist still unquestioningly assumes there are benefits to further economic expansion, even among the rich. They think the disease is the cure. Perhaps now it's time to talk about preparing for some form of collapse soon, hopefully to make a relatively soft "landing." That could be the only thing that might preserve Earth's capacity to support *Homo sapiens* in a post-apocalyptic future.





## A focus for March by Rick O'Keefe, branch coordinator, Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay

RSVP is required: <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/events/167534632/>

Center for Inquiry's Legal Director, Nicholas Little will speak in Tampa about the effects of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1994, and the legal actions CFI has taken and will take in defending secularism. Do you know what the religious right and the government are doing to undermine separation of church and state? Might you take an interest in defending your beliefs from ongoing diminishment? Find out!



Rick O'Keefe

Nick Little's likely focus would be RFRA - the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1994 because it seems to be where the big legal battles are these days and isn't rehashing the school prayer arguments. In short, what was passed unanimously by the Senate, with major backing from Progressive groups like Americans United and ACLU, as a protection for religious groups from unfair attacks by the government has become what some people always thought it would be - a sword for religious groups to smack the bejeezus out of other people. It was the basis of the Contraception Mandate brief we wrote, as well as many other suits right now.

**Nick Little** is the Legal Director at the Center for Inquiry, based out of the Washington D.C. office. Prior to working for CFI, Nick was an attorney with the D.C. based law firm Howrey, LLP, specializing in international and domestic antitrust matters. Since college, Nick has been involved with both organized party and issue based political and social activism.

As both an undergraduate and doctoral student at the University of Oxford, Nick became closely involved with the British Labour Party, becoming a branch officer. Disappointment with the strictures and compromises that came with party political activism, Nick moved away from a purely political career, and focused instead on issue based activism, in the areas of international human rights and LGBT rights.

When his law firm closed, Nick took the opportunity to focus his legal attention on the constitutional area and joined CFI. As well as working on CFI's internal legal matters, Nick has worked alone and with others in the secular community to seek to preserve a strong level of separation of Church and State. Recently Nick wrote an amicus brief for the Supreme Court defending the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act, and is working with local counsel in Florida on a case seeking to enforce that state's constitutional ban on spending tax payer revenues on clearly sectarian, religion based, half-way houses for released prisoners. CFI's legal department is currently considering involvement in cases regarding many different matters, including further litigation regarding the Affordable Care Act, the attacks on reproductive rights of women in many states, same sex marriage and LGBTQ rights, end of life and euthanasia matters, and the regulation of homeopathic and other pseudo medications. Nick is always seeking cases in which CFI can involve itself, either as an amicus in an existing matter, or directly representing a plaintiff. March 8, 1:30-3:00, in the Upper Tampa Bay Regional Public Library. 11211 Countryway Blvd. Tampa, FL 33626-2624 813-273-3652 [Get Directions / View Google Map http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/locations/utb/](http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/locations/utb/)  
We have room for up to 30 folks, maybe more.



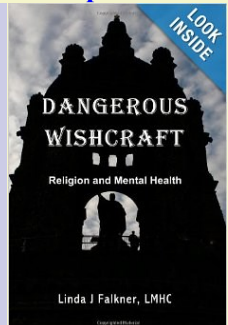
Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the Humane use of technology. And always, there is the occasional random act of Kindness.

Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>  
**Dave 'Doc' Dockery** President,

Find us at: [www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org)  
**We repair our members computers!**

Order this important new book now from [Amazon](http://Amazon)

By local Humanistic Counselor,  
**Linda Faulkner**



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

### Calendar of Upcoming main events:

- March 3:** Dr. Douglas Chismar, Professor, Ringling College of Art and Design—**Dangerous Ideas.**
- April 7:** **Humanist Panel**—Composed of members from HUSBAY regarding the Nature of Humanism.

For more detailed information, see the HusBay [website](http://www.husbay.org):

***Dangerous Wishcraft***, By Linda Faulkner is a must read for anyone who has ever questioned the truth of religious beliefs, explores the dangers of relying on prayer ~wishcraft~ rather than using rational thinking skills, and the often tragic mental, emotional, and physical consequences that can result. Religion, which may have originated as a way to explain the world, has now become an anchor in the fight against scientific knowledge. Modern evangelical religions are attempting to drag the world back into the Dark Ages. This book shines a light, through stories of clients scarred by religion combined with scientific research, on the damage religious fanaticism can inflict on both individual and global levels, and also presents potential strategies for protection from the dangerous practice of wishcraft.



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

## Practical Freethought

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R.O.

### Holidays of Special Interest

- **2014** is the UN International Year of Family Farming

March is Women’s History Month

- 2nd Academy Awards
- 7th International Women’s Day
- 12th Plant a flower Day
- 14th National Organ Donor Day
- 16th Freedom of Information Day
- 20th Vernal Equinox (Spring)
- 20th International Earth Day



#### TBCoR Leadership Team 2014

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

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

#### Be Included!

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