



The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Vol. 4 No. 12 December 2015 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

What's Inside?

Unified Calendar... 14

- Humanist Society..... 2*
- Tampa Humanists.... 4*
- Post Carbon Council.. 5
- Clr. UU-Humanists... 5*
- UU-Tampa Humanists 5
- Cooper Library..... 6
- Florida Atheists 7*
- Humanist Families.... 8*
- Tampa Bay Thinkers 8
- Military Atheists..... 8*
- TB Computer Soc..... 8
- Inst. For Sci. & Hum...8*
- Center For Inquiry... 9*

* TB-CoR Org.

Directory

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar
Rick O'Keefe

Web site
Jim Peterson

Newsletter
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt, Judy Adkins,
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:
www.evolutetampa.com

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

Darwin Day 2016 Saturday, February 6th 2016

Frans DeWaal & Deby Cassill



In 2007 Time magazine listed **Frans DeWaal** as one of the world's 100 most influential people. His insights into the origins of human behavior gained from his investigations into the origin and placement of humans in the biosphere mark him as a scientist uniquely able to help us fully appreciate the meaning of being human.

Deby Cassill earned her doctorate in the study of ant behavior, and finding in it some unique connections to the underlying social life of humans and other cooperative forms of life.

Get your tickets now through your Coalition of Reason local event page, www.evolve-tampa.com
Early bird rates in effect for the next month. Check for possible rebate for certain organization members.

Looking for a copy of *Brief Candle in the Dark* by Richard Dawkins? See information on page 13.

Take the bus to ...

Reason

the Rally that is,

in Washington D.C.
June 2nd to the 5th 2016.

TB-CoR and its member organizations are organizing a bus trip to bring Tampa Bay folks to the rally that is promised to be a major event on the national scene.

For more information as it develops, go to
www.evolutetampa.com

***"We are many! We are strong! We are united!
And we are here!"***

TB-CoR presents:

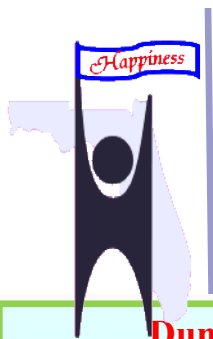
Human light / Winterfest Potluck Saturday, December 5th at 4 to 7 PM

At the Social Hall of UU Clearwater.
2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.



Hundreds of us will once again bring together our finest dishes for 10 or more, to share in the celebration of past successes and the anticipation of another successful year. Always something special. Beer & wine available. Be sure to label your dishes with your name. We ask a nominal \$5.00 to cover some of the expenses at the door. Volunteers appreciated.

Info on dishes you can bring on Page 2



The Humanist Society² 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

Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL ([map](#))

Volume 23 No. 12 December, 2015

*December & January
are renewal months
for the
Humanist Society of the Suncoast*



TB-CoR Humanlight-Solstice Potluck

Annual Dues.

- Trial -3 month- free news
- Regular -\$25
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin above)
- Life -\$200.
- Life Couple -\$250.
- Associate -\$10



Your membership helps keep Humanism alive and growing in the Tampa Bay area A small part of your dues allows us to participate fully as a member organization of the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason and enables us to support larger and more exciting programs.

*If you have questions concerning your dues or status, contact our treasurer,
marios_psomas@hotmail.com*

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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: * _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

*Send tax deductible (501c3) check
made out to:
"Marios Psomas"*

*Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
1013 Connecticut Rd
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689*

**= optional*



Got a letter, comment, suggestion or editorial contribution? Write to us at:
tbcor@metrodirect.net

What to bring...

by the first letter of your last name:

A-F Main meat or veggie Course

G-L Dessert

M-S Salad

T-Z Veggies and starches

Starts at 4:00, Saturday December 5th.

Cost \$5 to defray rental, dinnerware, and

drinks, coffee, tea and soda pop

Beer and Wine=\$2 each

Entertainment & good times for all!

Volunteers are very appreciated: please be there between 2:30 & 3:00

Celebrate! Enjoy!

Good friends, good food, good times!



Tampa Bay Harvest

Food: the first kindness and the measure of our Hospitality
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. Thanks to **Glenn Paul**, chair.
Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance. **We need volunteers!** See a board member. Or write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.

Please join us at

**4 :00 PM
Dec. 5th**

in
The Social Hall at
The UUC

2470 Nursery Rd.
in Clearwater.

**Bring a box or can
donation for TB
Harvest.**



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The (not so) Movable Feast:
the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner
For December, is at ...

Kumba Island

1800 Gulf-To-Bay Blvd Clearwater
(N.E. Corner of G-T-B & Keene)

We're changing our approach. Now its just open. No RSVP required. Trundle on down for the fine food and fastidiously fabulous fellowship!

Be there on Sunday Dec. 20th by 5 O'clock for Early bird specials. As always, this is a self treated dinner. Ask to be seated with "the humanists." We need a coordinator for this!... Maybe you?

~ Only the best people eat here when we do. ~

Laugh Lines Educated Puns 12-15

1. King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it". "But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!" Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."
2. Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss league records were destroyed in a fire, ...and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.
3. A man rushed into a busy doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."
4. A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day, his supply of the birds ran out so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with...transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.
5. Back in the 1800's the Tate's Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to produce other products, and since they already made the cases for watches, they used them to produce compasses. The new compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico rather than California. This, of course, is the origin of the expression,..."He who has a Tates is lost!"

More to come...

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

Jay Alexander,
Steve Brown,
Lois Fries, Secretary
Dave Kovar, Vice President
Beth Maxie,
Jim Peterson, President
Frank Prah,
Marios Psomas, treasurer
Jordan Williams.
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Jon Green, Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore,
Mark Winterbottom, Sidney Goetz
Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn Paul, Don
Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie
Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,
Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:

[Cognitive Neurosciences](#)

[Inc. or,](#)

[The Therapist Project,](#)

[or,](#)

[Lynda Gurvitz,](#)

[\(727\) 725-8820](#)

[or Patricia Walters,](#)

[\(813\) 988-5977](#)

Also, For Addiction Problems, see: [Life Ring Secular Recovery Meetings](#)
11485 Oakhurst Road
Waters Edge Club House
Largo, Florida



Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM in
The North Tampa Public Library
8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)



Join the Tampa Humanist Association!

More information and RSVP at: www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
Meets December 5th at the Potluck (see page 1 & 2.) Regular meetings will resume in January.

The Tampa Humanist Association exists to try to bring more humanistic dialogs to the city and its environs. We live in a time of tremendous changes. A world that once seemed a safe and an unchanging refuge from chaos and strife has increasingly found itself harboring a society of humans seemingly perpetually at war with one another, and struggling desperately to find adequate resources to realize their various ambitions.

Few seem to realize that we live on a finite, limited world; one where social cooperation is the key not only to success, but to survival. But for anxious and deprived youth, especially those who are educated, there is only restless impatience ending too often in tragic choices. Herein lies the origin of ISIS, the drug wars, and the relentless struggle to reach the glittering palaces of the idealized world of the media.

We who survive this mayhem become the adults who in more reflective moments find the necessity to reconsider how our world is really organized, and to shed the protective veil of delusional thinking. Our only task is to know ourselves. It's no simple thing. JP

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



Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!



Tampa CFI is offering these elegant license plate surrounds. Legal, sturdy, fits all US plates - easy to install. Now only \$12.
Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)

Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

Tampa Bay CoR
9654 W. Linebaugh Ave. PMB #110
Tampa, FL 33626

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: Center for Inquiry-TampaBay, Tampa Humanist Association, Institute for Science and Human Values, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, UU Humanists Clearwater, Atheists of Florida, UU Humanists Tampa,* Freethinkers @ USF,* Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote serious secular discussion and activity about important issues in our area and beyond.

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

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

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

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments . JP
Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net: <http://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>

A Humanist Discussion group in east Tampa ! 4

UU Humanists of Tampa -

Public Discussion, 2nd Wed. eve from 7 -9 PM
and on the 4th Sun. Morning 9:45 - 10:45.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637
More information can be found at :

<http://uutampa.org/unitarian-universalist-humanist-of-tampa/>



The mission of the [Secular Coalition for Florida](#) is to increase the visibility of and respect for non-theistic viewpoints in the State, and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

Please sign up [here](#). Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, and appreciated!



More [Seasonings](#) by CFI & Humanist Society member and journalist- poet, **Lula J. Dovi**. She has completed a second illustrated chapbook of poetry reflecting on her 92 years of adventures. It will be available soon, but the first [can be found here](#).

Humanist Quotes

"RELIGION COMES FROM THE PERIOD OF HUMAN PREHISTORY WHERE NOBODY—NOT EVEN THE MIGHTY DEMOCRITUS WHO CONCLUDED THAT ALL MATTER WAS MADE FROM ATOMS—HAD THE SMALLEST IDEA WHAT WAS GOING ON. IT COMES FROM THE BAWLING AND FEARFUL INFANCY OF OUR SPECIES, AND IS A BABYISH ATTEMPT TO MEET OUR INESCAPABLE DEMAND FOR KNOWLEDGE (AS WELL AS FOR COMFORT, REASSURANCE, AND OTHER INFANTILE NEEDS). TODAY THE LEAST EDUCATED OF MY CHILDREN KNOWS MUCH MORE ABOUT THE NATURAL ORDER THAN ANY OF THE FOUNDERS OF RELIGION."

Christopher Hitchens 12-15



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

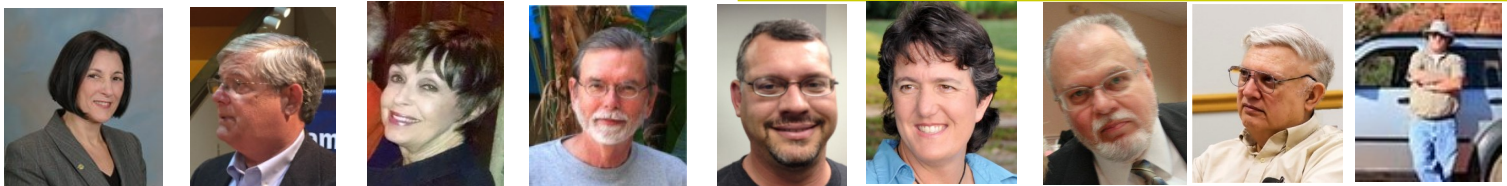
Transitions

In the face of “peak everything,” on which you’ve been working, what strategies should be implemented to make a transition in a manner as organized as possible and in the context of a world that is changing radically?

Perhaps the most important thing policy makers could do is to realize that world economic growth is unsustainable and is coming to an end. They must come up with a plan to allow the economy to shrink while minimizing strife and stress for people. We will have less energy to work with in the future, and that means we will be less mobile and will consume less. In the ideal scenario, quality of life would improve as consumption falls. But that is only possible if we plan for contraction. And that will require rethinking money, interest, investment, and the discipline of economics as it is taught and practiced. The current economic system has a lot of momentum behind it and so leaders will naturally tend to preserve it as long as possible. But this economic system cannot be sustained, and the longer we cling to it the worse and fewer our options will be as it fails. We must find alternatives, and soon.

The information above is from a recent interview given by Richard Heinberg. The rest of the interview can be found here: <http://richardheinberg.com/museletter-281-unconventional-energy>

The [Post Carbon Council](#) is looking for members.



TBCoR Leadership Team 2015

- Toni Van Pelt*
~ **ISHV**
- Bill Norsworthy*
UUCH
- Beth Maxi*
HoTA
- Mark Brandt,*
UUCH
- Chris Brown,*
MAF
- Jenn Hancock,*
TBHF
- Rick O’Keefe,*
CFI, TBS
- Jim Peterson,*
HSS, TBPC
- Al Hann*
AoF ~

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc. (SPAC), has been meeting continuously since 1927. It was incorporated in 1979 as a nonprofit, tax deductible organization. For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members and the public. For additional information send your emails to: spaceexaminer@gmail.com



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

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 the secular aspects of humanism.

We'll see you at the Winterfest potluck as described on pages 1 and 2.



Clearwater, Florida

The Humanities Institute at USF

<http://humanities-institute.usf.edu>

The USF Humanities Institute, established in 2003, 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.

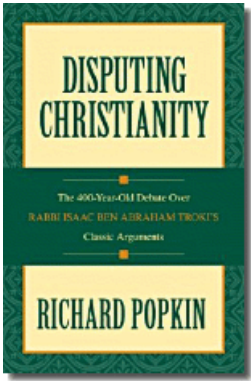
We showcase the scholarship of USF faculty from across the disciplines, as well as hosting renowned scholars and sponsoring small conferences and symposia on topics developed with faculty and students. We are developing distinctive signature themes, and strengthening our focus on relevance and community engagement, demonstrating that the joy and challenge of the humanities belong to everyone.



As part of our mission to encourage important research in the humanities, the Institute provides summer grants for humanities-focused research projects. Following the National Endowment for the Humanities, we foster a broad and inclusive definition of humanities, to include the contributions of scholars in language, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, religion, ethics, arts, and humanistic social sciences.

12-15

Meaningful Books



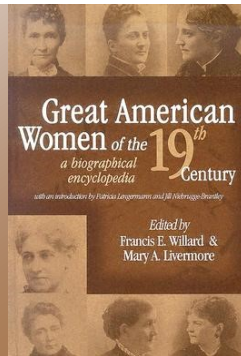
Anyone interested in philosophy of religion or the history of dialogue between Christians and Jews will find this work to be of great value.

“... over the centuries [this classic] has had an impact in Christian and Jewish circles that far exceeds what might have been predicted based on its obscure origins.”

<http://bit.ly/20agyEw>

Containing 1,500 biographies and more than 1,400 photographs or portraits, this extraordinary encyclopedia, originally published in 1897, documents the lives and achievements of remarkable [white] American women who lived during the nineteenth century. “A fascinating glimpse of women’s status, opportunities, and struggles.”

<http://bit.ly/20ahAk3>



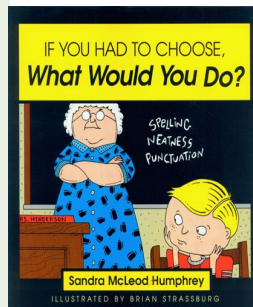
Thoughts of a Freethinker is the second book of local Humanist writer, *Michael Kaye*. Pensive considerations from an unencumbered mind lurking in the fresh air just outside the box. Order it from Amazon, or at your local book monger.



“Is it wrong to sneak into the movies if your big brother says it's okay? If "everybody" is cheating on the math test, shouldn't you, too? What if telling the truth gets your best friend in trouble?”

“It's never too early for us to begin talking to our children about values and helping them define and clarify their code of moral conduct.”

<http://bit.ly/20aia0Z>



Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better

Make digital withdrawals from the bank, free! See Humanist Society Librarian, Marios Psomas for details.

Evolve Fish is a good source for your freethought goodies:

Pins, jewelry, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc

<http://evolvefish.com/>

The Matt Cooper

Memorial Humanist Lending Library

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

TITLE

1. The Expanding Circle
2. In Gods we Trust
3. Why Evolution is True
4. The Second World
5. Denialism
6. The Selfish Gene
7. Democracy Incorporated
8. The Upside Irrationality
9. The End of Growth
10. The God Delusion
11. All That We Share
12. Sex, Time, and Power
13. Sex at Dawn
14. What liberal Media
15. The End of Faith
16. Plan B
17. The Portable Atheist
18. Open Society
19. Non Believer Nation
20. God on Trial
21. Natural Experiments of History
22. The Missionary Position
23. Life Inc
24. A brief History of Time
25. Breaking the Spell
26. The Philosophy of Humanism
27. The Quotable Atheist
28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About World
33. Imagine There's no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
35. What the Dog Saw
36. Sway
37. The Better Angels of our Nature
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded
40. Gaming the Vote
41. Subversion Fable
43. Evolution and the Big Question
44. Why People Believe Weird Things
45. The World is Curved
46. The Snow Ball
47. The Moral Landscape
48. How We Believe
49. Full House
50. The Origins of Political Order
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain
53. Science Friction
54. Genius
55. Inevitable Illusions
56. Sex & God
57. Being Right Is Not Enough
58. Loser Takes All
59. Taking Back Politics
60. What Happened in Ohio?
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible
63. Database Systems (Complete Ver.)
64. Reluctant Database Administrators
65. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
66. Inevitable Illusions
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do
69. Bonk
70. What Money Can't Buy
71. Financial Shenanigans
72. Sex & God
73. Best American Non required Reading
74. Reporting at Wit's End
75. Corporations are not People
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president?
77. Culture of Honor
78. Rot on the Vine
79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker** **New!**

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Clements
Cragun – Phillips
Nisbett – Cohen
Stenesh
Kaye

For even more access to Freethought history and perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prahl's Freethought Library. Contact fpahl@verizon.net

Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join members of our Tampa chapter to explore our new headquarters / Studio Building

For December: See [AoF Meetup](#) for details.

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus. For many people, atheism represents the most focused and powerful criticism of the philosophical worldview with which most of us were raised. It is liberating for the same reason it attracts the enmity of those who are committed to the closed and changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP
The latest news from Tampa AoF:

ASK AN ATHEIST

Too embarrassed to ask something you really, really want to know?

Have an idea you'd like to share, but don't want anyone to know from whom it came?

Have an opinion that's out of the norm for your group?

Well, here's your chance to share any or all of those in complete anonymity.

Just go to our [Ask An Atheist](#) page. We do not track any information about you, who you are, your IP address, or anything else. Of course, you will have to check back on the site to see any responses.

If you have an extra hour each month, and would like to help AOF, we are looking for volunteers to help create content for the website, atheist forum, and newsletter. Most of these activities can be done from the comfort of your own home. Feel free to let us know, just send your information to President@AOF.NGO.

Like to try your hand at TV-Podcast, or radio production?

Our new studios are looking for people interested in becoming involved in our production program.

Join the all volunteer corps of directors, camera operators, writers and producers, not to mention on air talent putting on our next year's schedule. See www.aof.ngo for sign-up info.



St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson
Monthly Meetup Day: Third Tuesday at 7 PM
Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com
On the web: <http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

Ever wonder what other Florida Freethought groups are doing?



Now you can easily know. Atheists of Florida have a new Calendar: <http://atheistsoffloridainc.org/calendar/> which enables everyone to know what's going on around the entire state.

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.

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Recently, the Florida House civil justice subcommittee passed a bill (HB 9), filed by Representative Carlos Trujillo, that would criminalize immigrants by making it a third-degree felony for a person to be knowingly present in the state of Florida after being previously deported or receiving a final deportation order. Violators could even face up to 5 years in prison and \$5,000 in fines.

[Tell your state legislators to stop this attack on Florida's immigrant community!](#)

HB 9 and its Senate version, SB 118, filed by Senator Travis Hutson, are not only unconstitutional, but if made law, would turn our local law enforcement into immigration agents, driving a wedge between them and the communities that they serve, and undermining their ability to investigate crimes.

If HB 9/SB 118 were to become law, immigrants and their families would simply avoid contact with the police—even to report crimes or identify suspects—because they fear that officers will ask about the immigration status of people they know.

Apart from that, because local police officers are not experts in immigration law, HB 9/SB 118 could also lead to unlawful targeting and racial profiling of communities across our state.

[Send a message to your state legislators to stop these anti-immigrant bills from advancing.](#)



Connect with the
ACLU of Florida
<https://aclufl.org>

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T
PROTECT ITSELF
JOIN THE ACLU

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008. Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM. December 16th: Topic: TBA

See our Meetup site: www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/ for more information

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

Contact: Chris (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*.

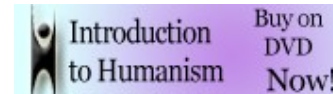


Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings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

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

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

Thank you! **Jennifer Hancock**



Freethinkers@USF is a multi-cultural, 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.

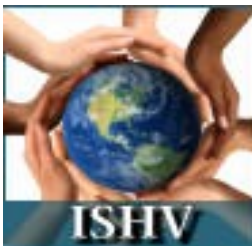
Write **Rodrick Colbert** at: freethinkersusf@gmail.com.



Tampa Bay Computer Society & Doc's Café

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. Visit our *new* facility on 300 S Duncan Ave Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755. [Map](#) Dave 'Doc' Dockery, President. Check out *Doc's Café* to discuss serious ideas and issues. Find us at: www.tampabay.org

We repair our member's computers Free!



The Institute for Science and Human Values

See Page 10 for article.

Various presentations throughout the year in the Tampa Bay area on significant matters of human concern. Watch this space for future announcements.

Toni Van Pelt President and Public Policy Director

Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc. Mailing address: 11280 Freedom Ct., Seminole, FL 33772 Email: tvanpelt@ishv.net Web: www.ishv.net



CENTER FOR INQUIRY

Tampa Bay

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



Rick O'Keefe

CFI's Camp Inquiry Closes But its Impact remains

It is with genuine sadness that we are announcing that the Center for Inquiry is discontinuing [Camp Inquiry](#), our annual weeklong program of education, investigation, and adventure for kids. The camp has been held each summer since 2006 in Holland, New York.

For organizations of all kinds, deciding how to allocate resources to various projects and programs can be extremely difficult. This is especially true for CFI, which maintains a variety of different programs, including publications, local branches, campus outreach, support for humanist affiliates in other countries, public policy advocacy, and litigation relating to our mission. Various factors had a role in the CFI board's decision to end our camp program. One relevant factor was the fact that the camp operated at a deficit most years. Another factor was the need to focus available resources on those programs more central to CFI's mission.

We recognize that many of our supporters may take issue with CFI's decision. We're not especially happy about the decision either. Camp Inquiry provided a uniquely rewarding learning and social experience for many children, and it has been a central point of pride for all of us at CFI.

However, as critical thinkers we also understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and the need to be careful stewards of our supporters' donations. Even though Camp Inquiry is coming to an end, we are confident it will have a lasting impact on the lives of former campers: kids who can share with their friends and family a love of science, curiosity about our world, and an appreciation for reason and critical thinking.

Thank you for your support of Camp Inquiry. If your children have been campers with us, you have our deepest gratitude for allowing us the privilege to get to know them, and to be inspired by them.

One final note: although Camp Inquiry did offer a unique experience, [Camp Quest](#) does provide programming for those interested in a secular camp environment. For those interested in the science education aspects of Camp Inquiry, there are many different camps focused on science education, [some of which are listed here](#).

Support CFI-Tampa Bay, Join now to keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, and become a member!

JOIN NOW

Click the **Join Now** button above to join or renew your membership. When you make a donation to CFI-Tampa Bay you become a member of a local and worldwide movement of humanists, skeptics, atheists, and free-thinkers, all working together to give voice to your values.

Why do we ask for your RSVP when we post an activity? We do like to know who is coming and who isn't. We also like to be able to plan for adequate seating or space, sometimes for reduced admission pricing.

So, please look at the calendar on the last page. It lists the links for you to click to RSVP, and to get updates to an event (such as "cancelled due to insufficient interest—too few RSVP's; or the venue cancelled, or the speaker can't make it, or the restaurant will be closed ...). If you aren't on the group's Meetup, then you won't be able to RSVP. Meetup is easy and free to join, then choose whichever group(s) you prefer. You will receive notice of each activity.

<http://www.meetup.com/>



Cause & Effect is the biweekly newsletter of the Center for Inquiry community, covering the wide range of work that you help make possible.

Applying investigation and reason to current issues, the most widely read publication, *Skeptical Inquirer*, keeps thinkers informed.

The Secular Humanist magazine, *Free Inquiry*, delves into all facets of humanity. Nothing is off limits.

Fortnightly CFI updates not enough? Of course they're not! • Follow CFI on [Twitter](#);

• Like us on [Facebook](#); • Encircle us on [Google+](#); • Subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel.

For I have done your bidding. I have slain mine enemies in your name. I have put women and children to death in your honor. I have caused great pain among them for your glory. — Psalms, 5:4-1

"Statement on Women's Rights and Non-State Terrorist Groups"

I am amazed at the lack of outrage and movement against the men, and now the women of ISIS who are unabashedly enslaving, sexually and physically assaulting women, girls and no doubt boys, on a daily basis.

As the world witnessed the social media onslaught against a dentist who traveled to Africa to slay a lion (and I am one of those), I ask where is the onslaught of social media and elsewhere against an army of men who can barely be referred to as human beings using the name of their religion and their god to mistreat and abuse women in this way?

As we have heard from the media and from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, the abduction, rape, torture and murder of women and girls has become a method of terrorizing people and forcing them to flee their homes to escape the atrocities faced specifically by women and girls.

The only action I have seen taken to date is a statement issued by the United Nations women's non-governmental organization (NGO) Zonta International (ZI). ZI is an organization pledged to empower women at the global and local levels, and to promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. ISHV is proud to work in coalition with ZI.

ISHV has become a signatory to the statement. ISHV joins ZI in a call for the end of inhuman treatment of others and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.



"Statement on Women's Rights and Non-State Terrorist Groups"

Background

Violence against women has been used in conflicts throughout the known history of humankind. In modern times, that violence has often been met with denial and silence. It has seldom been mentioned in our history books. Slowly, it's being brought to light.

The United Nations has created understanding of the need to protect women and girls during conflict and post-conflict situations, and of the role women must take in resolving conflicts and building peace. The UN Security Council "Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security," adopted in 2000, was an important milestone.

The United Nations depends on the support and actions of its Member States.

Non-state extremist and terrorist groups create new conditions. They move between countries and act across national borders. UN reports, including those of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, inform the international community of an increase in the abduction, rape and selling into slavery of women and girls in conflict areas. In these situations, violence against women is used to degrade, humiliate and dehumanize people and to actively displace them.

The so-called "Islamic State," ISIS, is a unique challenge. It is well-run, disciplined and controls considerable territory. It combines a narrow and selective interpretation of religious rulings with sophisticated use of information technology.

ISIS not only uses violence against women as a tactic of terror and as means of economy, but makes it part of ideology. Violence against "infidel" or "heretic" women and girls is presented as a justified act."

Statement

The international community must join efforts to stop the systematic violation of women's human rights perpetrated by ISIS and other non-state actors. It is not only a women's issue, but also a complex emergency and a growing threat to international peace and security. Expressing concern and condemning the use of sexual violence as a "tactic of war" is not enough. It takes strong commitment and willful action.

Zonta International calls on the United Nations and its Member States to commit to stop violence against women in conflicts, and to find effective short-term and long-term working methods.

Those may include to:

- *Support nations and regions with the will and capacity to stop the territorial expansion of extremist and terrorist groups.
- *Mobilize humanitarian aid to refugees, counteract stigmatization of survivors of violence and help them rebuild their lives.
- *Develop response to violent forces in cooperation with moderate religious leaders who understand the issues.
- *Prevent recruiting of group members through information and education, and through social and economic initiatives, directed at those at risk.
- *Find ways to block the groups' income sources such as oil, natural gas, minerals and antiquities.
- *Hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.
- *Involve affected countries in serious efforts to solve conflicts.
- *Strengthen the political will for implementing Security Council resolutions.

ISHV joins ZI in a call for the end of inhuman treatment of others and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

Women's lives depend on our actions, so the question is "What actions will we take?"

Please join in the outcry by bringing this to the attention of your friends, family and neighbors. Share this on social media. Start a petition. Tweet about it. Post on Facebook. Organize! Fuel the outrage. Women's lives depend on it.

Toni Van Pelt, Dir. ISHV

A 'New Deal' of sorts for religion

November 19, 2015

Science alone can't force behavior change. Religion needs to step up.

By Douglas Fischer, The Daily Climate

RIETI, Italy – Religion needs a revolutionary shift, taking responsibility for our "common home" and rejecting fundamentalism, to point humanity to better, wiser solutions for problems like climate change.

Reason alone can't handle the job.

The message came from a panel convened here in Italy, where the papal encyclical issued this summer and the Paris attacks over the weekend were both very much present.

"Any fundamentalism breaks our common home," said Monsignor Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council of Family. "This is the most important message stemming from Pope Francis and his encyclical."

Paglia spoke via a translator at the 12th International Media Forum on the Protection of Nature, an annual gathering of scientists and journalists in Italy. Environmental Health Sciences, publisher of The Daily Climate and Environmental Health News, is being honored at the conference with the International Greenaccord Media Award.

At a discussion on religion and science, several theological experts called for more than a simple rethinking in the longstanding, antagonistic relationship between the two.

"What are our values that shape our individual behavior? From where do we receive our onus on responsibility?" asked former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, a member of the Constitutional Court, one of two supreme courts in Italy. "Religions are an irrenouncable moral guide for a free society."

But for too long, Amato added via a translator, religion has stood as the antithesis to free society - a force that "darkens the mind," the enemy of science.

What's needed, said Paglia and others, is an ecological revolution "in the broadest possible sense."

"We have to rethink our relationship with this common home," Paglia said. "Humans are not the masters."

That message was explicit in Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, the *Laudato Si*, issued earlier this year. Almost 200 pages long, the landmark document mapped a more holistic ecology—one wrapping environmentalism, economics, science and faith together in an integral effort.

It calls, said Giancarlo Bosetti, director of Reset Dialogues on Civilization, an Italian nonprofit focused on intercultural understanding, not simply for a shift in "tone or style," but in "theological substance."

"It explicitly abandons dogmatic expression of faith," Bosetti said. "This is a post-secular philosophy, open to dialogue, that allows us to produce many syntheses between faith and reason."

And that pairing, Amato added, is crucial to breaking the "gigantic oxymoron" between unfettered economic growth and expression on one hand, and ecological preservation on the other.

"There is nothing more beautiful, more momentous, than the fact that we are able to choose, to design and build, our life project," Amato said. "But we are so often focused on desires centered around ourselves.... We have endangered our relationship with our collective interest."

Science has pointed out the folly of such choices. But it has little power to shift the underlying ethics and morals, panelists agreed.

"Science is telling us we are living as if we were ill," Amato said. "And science is helpless ... in telling us what we should do. "We need a form of ethics that can reset our relationship with ourselves and with our world."

Ed. Note: Obviously, many of our readers would disagree with various aspects of this article, but it nonetheless shows that some progress is being made in adjusting human responses to reality, instead of invoking empty "ancient traditions". The perspectives of humanist philosophy undergirded with its atheist foundation seems a more sensitive and precise instrument to guide humanity through the difficulties of the next epoch as we strive to overcome the consequences of our own past mistakes, many of which have religious roots. JP



Hospices in Hillsborough County: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-hillsborough-county-florida>
 Pinellas: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pinellas-county-florida>
 Pasco: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pasco-county-florida>



I ANTHROPOMORPHIZE THE REALITY AROUND ME
 MY MAKE-UP, MY FURNITURE, MY FOOD
 MY CEILING, MY BREASTS
 THE WRITTEN WORD, GLORIOUS MUSIC AND ART
 WHAT ARE THEY TELLING ME?
 I REDUCE ALL IMPORTANT CONCEPTS
 TO THEIR SEEDS
 I.E. FLESH-SEED MOLECULES TO MAKE MORE FLESH,
 BUILDING-SEED MADE BY THE DEAD TO
 SHELTER THE LIVING THEY WILL NEVER KNOW
 MUSIC-SEED THAT FALLS ON MORE DEAD EARS
 THAN LIVING ONES
 THE NIETCHE-SEED IS STRONG ATHEISM
 THE GOD-SEED: ESSENCE OF BULLSHIT
 MOURNING BECAUSE I CANNOT EXPRESS MYSELF
 LIKE NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON
 TO JUST KNOW HOW MANY ELEMENTS THERE ARE
 AND THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE
 THERE ARE CREATURES AS MUCH MORE INTELLIGENT
 THAN WE ARE AS WHEN WE ARE COMPARED TO THE APES
 WHY MUST WE SUFFER THIS INCURABLE DISEASE
 OF INSATIABLE CURIOSITY AND WONDER?
 IS THIS NOT MORE LIKE THE HELL OF DEEP PAIN
 THAN THE SWEET, QUIET RELEASE OF DEATH?

Patricia Walters
 11/24/2015



Reason Talks

Captivating talks on science, humanism,
 skepticism, and other smart stuff.



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Captivating talks on science, humanism, skepticism, and other smart stuff

The Center for Inquiry is proud to introduce [Reason Talks](#), your source for high-quality video of the best presentations from the brightest minds and most compelling speakers in all of freethought.



You already know that along with passionate advocacy of science, skepticism, and humanist values, CFI stages enlightening and impactful public events, featuring award-winning speakers from across the disciplines. From major international conferences to weekend lectures with local experts, CFI strives to provide one “eureka” moment after another to spark debate, inspire action, and entertain.

Now with Reason Talks, anyone can enjoy the best presentations and discussions from CFI events, presented in “seasons” of episodes, with a new talk posted every week at [ReasonTalks.tv](#). Watch them individually in your spare time, or take a day and “binge-watch” a whole season’s worth for your own personal conference. It’s up to you!

We’re kicking off Reason Talks with not one but three excellent presentations: [Rebecca Goldstein](#), author of *Plato at the Googleplex*, who just received the [2014 National Humanities Medal from President Obama](#); *New Yorker* science journalist [Michael Specter](#), on the baseless fear of GMOs; and international human rights activist [Taslima Nasrin](#) on why secularism is necessary for women’s freedom.

In upcoming episodes, we’ll have talks from luminaries such as [Eugenie Scott](#), [Lindy West](#), [Steven Salzberg](#), [Susan Jacoby](#), and CFI president and CEO, [Ronald A. Lindsay](#). And that’s just season one! Reason Talks will feature speakers that challenge conventional wisdom, bringing science and evidence-based thinking to bear on some of the most controversial, perplexing, and critical issues of our time. These experts hail from a wide variety of fields such as science, journalism, politics, religion, philosophy, and grassroots activism.

Going beyond cheerleading for atheism and skepticism, Reason Talks delve deeply into such crucial issues as religious freedom, social justice, science education, public policy and activism, investigations of the paranormal, the dangers of magical thinking and alternative medicine, and the global struggle for free expression and inquiry. And so much more.

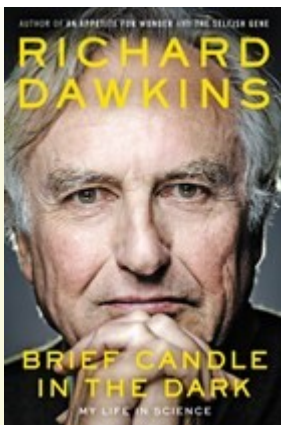
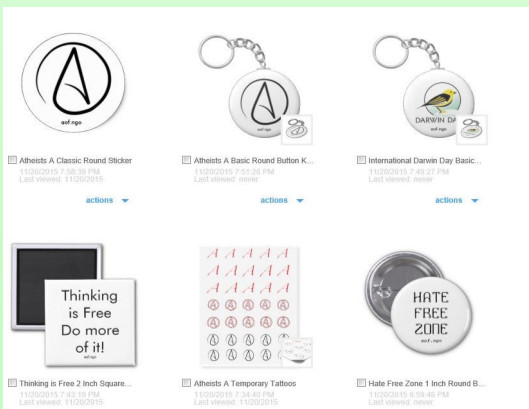
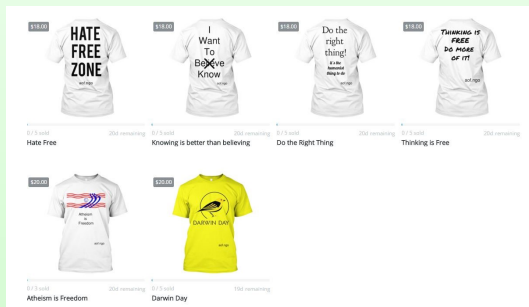
Of course, it’s all free, on-demand, online. Check out Reason Talks now at [ReasonTalks.tv](#).

Christmas Woes? Secular Shopping Made Easy Visit the AOF store

and get your shopping done quickly and easily, and support the Atheist/Freethought movement, all at the same time. We have what you need! If we don't have it, you don't need it.

We have t-shirts, mugs, stickers, even temporary tattoos if you are feeling adventuresome.

Click on any image below to go to the store now, or, visit us at: <https://teespring.com/stores/aof> or, <http://www.zazzle.com/floridaatheists>

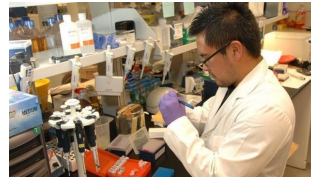


Looking for a copy of Richard Dawkins' book? Get one including our program brochure, and a DVD of the event, and bookmark for only \$27.95 incl. S&H. Go to: www.evolvetampa.com for details.

Keep politics out of science

-- stop the passage of H.R.1806 By Evin Lambert

The majority in Congress is putting politics ahead of scientific advancement, and the result could jeopardize America's leadership in the global scientific community. If Congress has its way, a new bill (HR 1806) will allow them to strip the National Science Foundation (NSF) of its control over its 7.3-billion dollar budget, and take over decision-making power on what type of research grants and fellowships get priority funding. Funding requests by graduate students and scientists will not be reviewed by panels of preeminent scholars, as they have been for more than a half-century, and funding will no longer be based on scientific merit. Instead, "merit" will be based solely on Congress' idea of "national interest."



And here's where the worst of the problem lies -- for many in Congress, pressing areas of study like climate change and stem cell research don't meet their "national interest" criteria, putting progress in some of our most important areas of science at risk. **Political ideology should not stand in the way of true scientific advancement. HR 1806 has already passed the House. I am calling on the Senate to reject it.**

This is not just theoretical. Real lives will be affected if Congress gets the power to cherry-pick which sciences it will fund. Mine is one of them. As an arborist, I'm forced to use pesticides to keep trees alive, as no other effective insect-control product exists. But I also know of the many environmental and health problems these pesticides cause, and am very aware of the danger I'm putting myself, and my family, into on a daily basis as I come into such close contact with these toxic chemicals.

I am impatiently awaiting a day when scientists will discover a biological, rather than chemical, method to curb insect populations in our agriculture. But this bill is a major step backwards for that dream -- biological methods would cut into the profits of companies like Monsanto, which has an interest in maintaining the status quo, and millions of dollars to spend in lobbying. Congressmen and women who support big business have already sided with companies like Exxon and Shell in their efforts to shun climate change science. And the Monsanto lobby has already won several victories in Congress, and will very likely have their ear when it comes to shaping NSF policy.

It is imperative that science not be politicized.

Enough is enough. Congress need to get out of the way of scientific advancement and encourage America's best and brightest to continue to search, discover and create for our nation, and the global community as a whole. Tell the Senate to dump HR 1086. Sign the petition at Change.org, below.

<https://www.change.org/p/keep-politics-out-of-science-stop-the-passage-of-h-r-1806?>



Tampa Bay Coalition – December, 2015 Calendar of Reason

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.

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

Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>



None until Spring semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Inst. at USF	See Web site for full listing of many great events and calendar. http://humanities-institute.usf.edu/events/	
12-02, 13, & 14	CLEARWATER– Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/	
12-05 Winterfest 4 PM; & 20, Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Humanists	Details: http://www.uuc.org/	
12-05, Saturday, 4 PM	E. CLEARWATER– Humanist Soc. - Suncoast	Winterfest RSVP http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/	
12-05, Saturday, 4 PM	E. CLEARWATER– Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Winterfest RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/	
12-05, Saturday, 4 PM	E. CLEARWATER– Center for Inquiry	Winterfest RSVP is required . http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
12-11 Annual Dinner, & 12 MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & other events RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/ Web site: http://www.marsastro.org/club-info.html	
12-12, Saturday, 10:30 AM; <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers discuss books we've read. Limited to 12 <i>paid-up</i> <i>CFI members</i> . RSVP is required . http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
12-18, Friday, 8 PM gen'l. mtg.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php	
12-19, Saturday, 11 AM	BRADENTON/ SARASOTA– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/	
12-20 Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Social, & Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests & critical thinking. Click to RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay	
12-20, Sunday, 5 PM	PINELLAS COUNTY Humanist Society Dinner	This month's venue: http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/	
12-27, Sunday, 9:45-10:45 AM, 4 th Sunday; & 2 nd & 4 th Wednesday at 7:00 PM	TEMPLE TERRACE– UU Tampa Humanists	Details: http://uutampa.org/shaag-discussion-topics/	
12-TBA, Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. Seating is limited to 25! Click here <i>before</i> midnight, Sunday the 29 th . <i>For CFI paid</i> <i>members</i> . http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/	
12-TBA, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/	