

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

See Pg 6

Vol. 4 No. 5 May, 2015 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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The National Day of Prayer was made an official annual day of observance by Congress and President Truman in 1952. On this day each year the President issues a proclamation recognizing the celebration and asking Americans to pray, and government officials at the federal, state, and local levels participate in prayer ceremonies as representatives of the government. Obviously, many Americans and groups like the AHA oppose this government-sanctioned religious event as we feel it violates the First Amendment and excludes non-religious Americans.



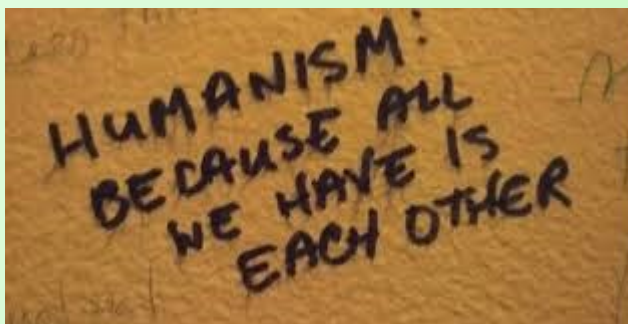
The National Day of Reason

was created to call attention to this unconstitutional event, in addition to celebrating reason and its societal benefits. Every year we call upon government officials at all levels of public service and of all political parties to issue a proclamation showing their commitment to the separation of church and state.

Last year, the Governors of Rhode Island and Nebraska joined with several mayors and Members of Congress in recognizing the National Day of Reason. This was a historic achievement for the humanist movement, as it showed that government officials recognized our concerns about the National Day of Prayer and were eager to work with us in celebrating a more inclusive holiday.

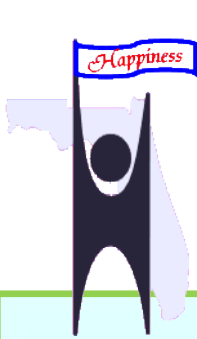
Something special is brewing for this October. Watch these pages for an important announcement soon!

Religious humanists, secular humanists and atheists can all agree that this life in this world is our central and defining focus. Each one of us is responsible for human affairs, other beings, and the resources of our shared planet. Our vision for a democratic world is one in which every individual's worth and dignity is respected, nurtured and supported, and where human freedom and behaving responsibly are natural aspirations for ourselves and expectations of one another.



Courtesy of
The Humanist Institute

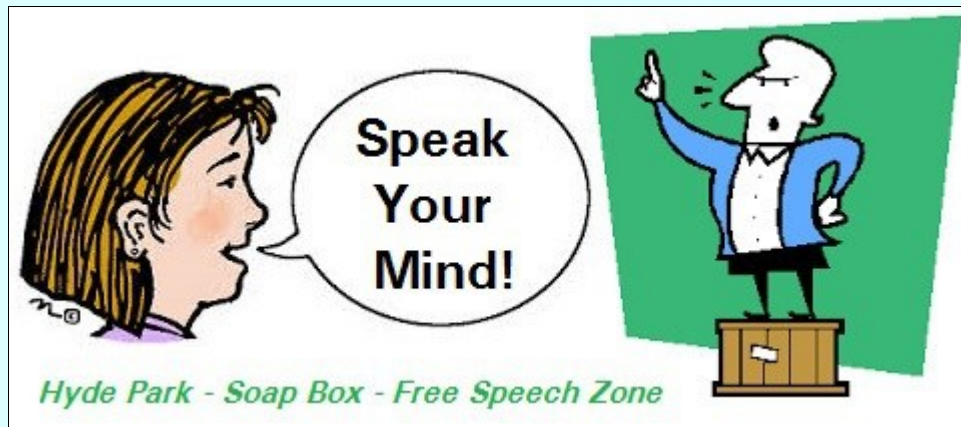




The Humanist Society² of the Suncoast News

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

Volume 23 No. 5 May, 2015



Share your High Praise or a Low Opinion, a Burning Issue or a Cold Shoulder, a New Idea or Old Wisdom.

Take 3 minutes of open microphone to talk on any subject to an audience of your fellow humanists.

Politics? Religion? National News? Local Issue? Speak your mind, unburden your soul. Oratory, Agitation, New Ideas, Dramatic Reading, Personal Story, Guerrilla Theater, Stand-up Comedy. Use your imagination.

Then respect your fellow speakers during your turn to listen.

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast will sponsor and host a commemoration of **World Humanist Day** 2 PM on June 21, 2015, to take place in the auditorium of the main St. Petersburg Main Public Library at 3745 Ninth Ave. No. Hold the date. More in the next news letter.

DK



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 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
2 PM May 2nd
at
The Clearwater
Countryside
Library 2741
State Rd. 580
Clearwater, FL
33761

Many members
go to dinner
afterwards at the
Farmer Boy
Restaurant on
Drew St.

~ Join or
Renew ~

Your Humanist Society of the
Suncoast
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) dues to:

Marios Psomas, Treasurer
Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
1013 Connecticut Rd
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

*= optional





*Humanists work to build a world
in which happiness is the
enduring criterion of 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
For May, it's still ...

Georgie Boy
Restaurant

1101 S Missouri Ave, Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 442-1217

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

But be there on Sunday May 17th by 5 O'clock for preferred seating. Otherwise you may have to stand. As always, this is a self treated dinner. JP

Laugh Lines

Literate Wit 5-15

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you; but, it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. Why is my desk a work station.

. . 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

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

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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](#)

Meets May 16th

Our next discussion will consider the Nature of

Evil

It's a simple word whose curious reverse spelling is "live." And while the question of whom exactly it might be who knows "what evil lurks in the hearts of men..." we know it is no mere shadow. In fact, there is every reason to believe it is us, and that it is according to the great philosopher, Pogo, our worst and most intimate enemy.

It is for the cause of rooting out evil that millions are made to die and suffer through wars of religion and politics. It may well be observed that most great catastrophes are visited by us upon ourselves in the interest of imposing the "good" and vanquishing evil.

And yet evil is an alien presence in the mind of the popular imagination. Leaders and personalities associated with causes and events of great trauma become disassociated from our species as if they were not members of the human race. We do not recognize them as one of us. Maybe we should. Perhaps we need to identify the source of evil as nothing more exotic than the vagaries of genetics in the presence of the evolutionary conflicts of our culture as it encounters inevitable contradictions of growth.

But we need to know the nature of our discontents and clarify with more precision the identity of our faults if we are to ease the pressure of our enduring anxiety.

Join the Tampa Humanist Association!

JP

Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!
Tampa CFI is offering these great license plate surrounds
Fits all US plates - easy to install Now only \$15.
Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)



Another Humanist Discussion group forms in east Tampa

4

UU Humanists of Tampa - Public Discussion, 2nd & 4th Wed. eve's.

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/>

HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

The need is great All it takes is about an hour out of a day and the commitment to show up once a week The feeling of having helped is most gratifying How can we as Humanists not act to impact a child in the inner city in a positive manner?

In Hillsborough County, contact: **Debra L. Blossom**, Program Manager Training and Volunteer Management 813.872-5254
debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Gale Barron

gfbshb@aol.com

Secular Services Directory

Serving the Secular Community with Rational Competence

if you offer or need professional services in any area of life, check out this opportunity. The directory for services will be out soon.



Humanist Quotes

"If god really wanted people to be free of [wicked thoughts], he should have taken more care to invent a different species."

Christopher Hitchens

[Read more](#)

Doubts about religion? You're one of many.

AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR HUMANISM

Learn more at WeAreAAH.org

LANGSTON HUGHES
Writer and Activist

ALIX JULES
Dallas - Ft. Worth Coalition of Reason



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

Climate change, along with the depletion of oil, coal, and gas dictate that we will inevitably move away from our profound societal reliance on fossil fuels; but just how big a transformation will this be? While many policy-makers assume that renewable energy sources will provide an easy "plug-and-play" solution, author **Richard Heinberg** suggests instead that we are in for a wild ride; a "civilization reboot" on a scale similar to the agricultural and industrial revolutions.

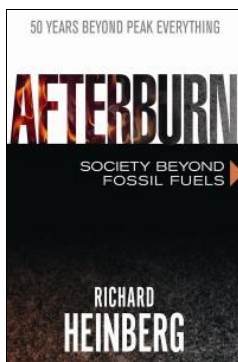
Afterburn consists of 15 essays exploring various aspects of the 21st century migration away from fossil fuels including:

- Short-term political and economic factors that impede broad-scale, organized efforts to adapt.
- The origin of longer-term trends (such as consumerism), that have created a way of life that seems "normal" to most Americans, but is actually unprecedented, highly fragile, and unsustainable.
- Potential opportunities and sources of conflict that are likely to emerge.

From the inevitability and desirability of more locally organized economies, to the urgent need to preserve our recent cultural achievements and the futility of pursuing economic growth above all, *Afterburn* offers cutting-edge perspectives and insights that challenge conventional thinking about our present, our future, and the choices in our hands.

The advent of fossil fuels changed the world profoundly (giving us everything from plastics and automobiles to global warming); the inevitable and rapidly approaching end of the oil-coal-and-gas era will likewise bring overwhelming transformation in its wake. My new book *Afterburn* explores that transformation—its opportunities and challenges—in sixteen essays that address subjects as varied as energy politics, consumerism, localism, the importance of libraries, and oil price volatility.

Afterburn is a book of "greatest hits"—that is, popular essays that have been previously published—similar in that respect to an earlier book of mine, *Peak Everything* (2007). Like that previous collection, this one has been carefully selected and arranged, and features an all-new Introduction.



News and resources you can use:

The [Secular Policy Institute](#) (secularpolicyinstitute.net) has issued a new report on Abuse in the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. [Recovering From Religion](http://recoveringfromreligion.org/) (<http://recoveringfromreligion.org/>) offers a Hotline, 184-1-Doubt_it (1-844-368-2848). This is available 24 hours a day on weekends and 7pm-1am weekdays.

[Sunlight Foundation](#) (sunlightfoundation.com) – nonpartisan nonprofit that advocates for open government globally and uses technology to make government more accountable to all.

[Doubtful News](#) (doubtfulnews.com) – skeptical news stories in your inbox every day.

[rbutr](#) (rbutr.com) – tells you when the webpage you are viewing has been disputed, rebutted or contradicted elsewhere on the internet.

[Quackwatch](#) (quackwatch.com) – reports on health-related frauds.

[Do Not Link](#) (www.donotlink.com) – provide links to a site without improving "their" search engine position.

[Skeptics on the Net](http://skepticonthe.net/media-type/resources/) (<http://skepticonthe.net/media-type/resources/>) – find more resources like the above

If you have a resource you would like to share, please send an email to NewsLetter@AtheistsofFloridainc.org.

Above courtesy of Atheists of Florida editorial office.

JMA

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

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

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://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>

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 Mark Brandt mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu Web site: www.uuclearwater.org



Clearwater, Florida

Our next Humanist meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 24th**. Our speaker for that meeting will be Chicago-based

Hemant Mehta, otherwise known as "The Friendly Atheist." Check out his blog: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/>

Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better



Florida NOW

<http://www.fnw.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 help for a group or individual. 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.

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



The Florida legislature has spent a lot of time this session attacking women's reproductive rights by trying to impose a 24-hour mandatory delay on a woman seeking an abortion. The House version of this bill (HB 633) has already passed through three committees and is pending a scheduled vote on the floor of the house.

[Tell your senator to support Florida women and vote NO on SB 724.](#)

Not only is this 24-hour mandatory delay medically unnecessary, it only serves to interfere with a woman's personal and private medical decision.

The truth is that SB 724 is the Florida legislature's tool for dissuading a woman from having an abortion. The 24-hour delay only creates needless hurdles that impose financial, professional and personal burdens on women in our state. Don't let politicians play with our rights.

Take action to stop this bill in the Senate to protect the rights of women across the state of Florida. An estimated 1 in 3 women will make the decision to have an abortion in their lifetime and Tallahassee politicians shouldn't be involved in that decision making process.

For more: <http://aclufl.org/>

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T
PROTECT ITSELF
JOIN THE ACLU

5-15



The Humanities Institute at USF

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

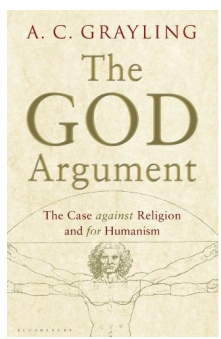
Challenge, Create, Connect: Our new motto focuses our commitment to bring the beauty, values, and lessons of the humanities to USF and our community.

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.

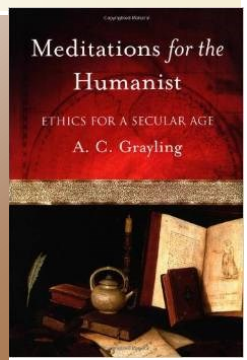
As part of our mission to encourage important research in the humanities, the Institute provides summer grants for humanities-focused research projects. Following the National Endowment for the Humanities, we foster a broad and inclusive definition of humanities, to include the contributions of scholars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

Meaningful Books



What are the arguments for and against religion and religious belief? *The God Argument* is the definitive examination of these questions, and a statement of the humanist outlook that recommends itself as the ethics of the genuinely reflective person. At [Amazon](#), or your corner bookstore.

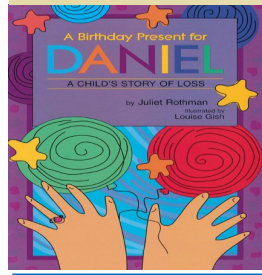
Magnanimity is in short supply," writes A. C. Grayling is this wonderfully incisive book, "but it is the main ingredient in everything that makes the world a better place" And indeed *Meditations for the Humanist: Ethics for a Secular Age* is itself a generous, insightful, wide-ranging, magnanimous inquiry [Order](#)



Ingersoll on CD: 2-CD set includes "About the Holy Bible" (1894) and "Why Am I an Agnostic?" (1889). The complete texts, without one word omitted ... performed with an oratorical flourish that does justice to Ingersoll's mighty words. Plus an introduction that places Ingersoll and freethought into the context of America's Gilded Age. Two complete works of Ingersoll performed in our time! 2-CD Set, \$12. [Click here to order](#)



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.



One of an acclaimed series of critical thinking family books for parents and children for discussing everyday situations so children can be prepared for them. Available [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!

Evolve Fish is a good source for your freethought goodies: Pins, 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	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 Hawkins
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
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
57.	Being Right Is Not Enough	Paul Waldman
58.	Loser Takes All	Mark Crispin Miller
59.	Taking Back Politics	Cathy Allen
60.	What Happened in Ohio?	Fittrakis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman
61.	Autobiography of Mark Twain	Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62.	The Skeptics Annotated Bible	
63.	Database Systems (Complete Ver.)	Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis
64.	Reluctant Database Administrators	Josef Finsel
65.	Asimov's Guide to the Bible	Isaac Asimov
66.	Inevitable Illusions	M. Piattelli-Palmarini
67.	Ain't Nobody's business If You Do	Peter McWilliams
69.	Bonk	Mary Roach
70.	What Money Can't Buy	Michael J. Sandel
71.	Financial Shenanigans	Howard Shilit
72.	Sex & God	Darrel Ray, ED.D
73.	Best American Non required Reading	Dave Eagers
74.	Reporting at Wit's End	St. Clair McKelway
75.	Corporations are not People	Clements
76.	Could I Vote Mormon for president?	Cragun - Phillips
77.	Culture of Honor	Nisbett - Cohen
78.	Rot on the Vine	Stenesch
79.	Thoughts of a Freethinker	Kaye

Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join our Tampa chapter **Sunday, May 10th** : All paid up members of AoF are welcome to come to our Board of Directors meeting. See the [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



Enter the AoF 'Design our T-shirt' Contest!

Prizes: 1st place – this design will be adopted as the official t-shirt for AOF for one year. The designer will receive two free t-shirts. 2nd place – this design will be used to help “market” AOF. The designer will receive one free t-shirt of the 1st place design. All entries will have an acknowledgement on our website and a mention in the newsletter.

The winners may, at their option, also have a short bio and a photo published on our website and in the newsletter and a one year membership in AOF. For complete entry info, see: <http://atheistsoffloridainc.org/tshirt/>

Save the date...

FreeFlo 2015

Florida Humanist Conference

- Friday, November 6, 2015 5: 00 PM, to Sunday, November 8, 2015, 5:00 PM
- [Holiday Inn Orlando-International- Airport](#), 5750 T.G. Lee Blvd, Orlando, FL ([map](#))

Speakers (subject to change, more info and descriptions below taken from: <http://www.floridahumanist.org/>):

Dan Barker, Author of Life Driven Purpose: How an Atheist Finds Meaning and Godless: How an Evangelical Preacher Became One of America’s Leading Atheists and Co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation

Anthony Pinn, Professor, prolific author, Director of Research at the Institute for Humanist Studies and Founding Director of the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning.

David Tamayo, President of the Hispanic American Freethinkers
Sarah Morehead, Executive Director at Recovering From Religion & President of the Reason Rally Coalition

Seth Andrews, Author of Sacred Cows – a Lighthearted Look at Belief and Tradition around the World and Deconverted: A Journey from Religion to Reason as well as host of The Thinking Atheist

Katherine Stewart, Journalist and author of the Good News Club
Bo Bennet, Author of The Concept & Logically Fallacious, co-host of The Humanist Hour and blogger at Relationship with Reason

Dr. Ryan Cragun, Professor and author of books such as How to Defeat Religion in 10 Easy Steps and What You Don’t Know about Religion (but should)

Robyn Blumner, Editorial writer and President and Executive Director of the Richard Dawkins Foundation

Stewart Huff, Comedian



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

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>

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>

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008. Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM .

May 18: **What is the role of our modern military?**

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 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*.



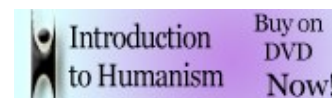
Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings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

Jennifer Hancock See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.

Happiness Through Humanism: *Excerpts:* Happiness in the moment



While our moment-to-moment happiness depends on how we are treated by others, our larger sense of purpose in life is our own doing.

There was a recent study about every day morality – see [report on it](#). What they found is that people receive and commit more moral acts than immoral acts, but we are twice as likely to hear about immoral acts. Something we all know but it's nice to have it validated by actual data.

The other big finding is that if you are a recipient of a moral act, you are more likely to act morally yourself within the next hour. This is something the scientists call “moral contagion.” In other words, being kind encourages more kindness in the world.

What has this got to do with happiness? Well, it turns out that being treated morally increases our happiness. No surprise there. But when you combine this with acting morally encouraging more moral behavior, you start to see the scientific underpinnings of the golden rule. You behave well because it encourages other people to behave well and when other people behave well towards you, it makes you feel happy.

What is really interesting is people who behave morally experience a big increase in their sense of purpose in life. Having a larger sense of purpose in your life not only feels good, it reduces stress improves your health and increases your lifespan. (see: <http://magazine.ucla.edu/exclusives/sense-of-purpose-makes-you-happy-and-healthy/>)

Apparently science backs up the Humanist approach to life. Be a good person, help other people be good too.

For more, read my book: [The Humanist Approach to Happiness](#).

How Times Change

And yet, some things always remain the same. Like, how many of us hate change!

Routines are comforting. We don't have to think too much about them. We just do them, as if on autopilot and stuff gets done. Like, laundry, or filing an annual report, or any number of mundane work tasks.

Workplaces are filled with repetitive tasks. It's not just manufacturers who stick to their processes. All workplaces do. Whatever it is that has to get done, from cooking a hamburger to new client intake, to payroll all has a process.

And these processes are really helpful. They can help us get a lot of stuff done very quickly and with minimal error; precisely because – they are done the same way every time.

Processes are only a problem when we need to change them. And suddenly all heck breaks loose.

... *To learn more* – consider taking our [“Why is Change so Hard?” e-course](#).

AH Appignani Humanist LC Legal Center

Appignani Humanist Legal Center provides legal assistance to defend the constitutional rights of religious and secular minorities by directly challenging clear violations of the Establishment Clause and seeking equal rights for humanists, atheists and other freethinkers.

- ◆ ◆ [Teachers Can't Give Out Bibles, Says Oklahoma School District in Response to Humanist Group's Letter](#) *April 13, 2015* – AHLC defends church-state separation in Oklahoma.
- ◆ ◆ [Humanist Group Defends Right of Pennsylvania Student Who Was Refused Treatment by School Nurse for Sitting Out the Pledge of Allegiance](#) *April 9, 2015* – The American Humanist Association defends a student who was berated by school staff for opting out of the Pledge.
- ◆ ◆ [Humanist Group Takes Public School to Task for Distributing Bibles During Holy Week](#) *April 3, 2015* – The Appignani Humanist Legal Center admonishes an Oklahoma school for passing out Gideon Bibles.



Secular Coalition for Florida is unlike any other nontheistic state organization—it brings together organizations and individuals for the express purpose of *lobbying government officials* on your behalf. If your organization supports our mission statement, please sign up [here](#). Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, and appreciated!



the Institute for Science and Human Values
Presents
Perspectives on Death and Dying Symposium

Dying Without Deity

April 10 & 11, 2015

• Save The Date •

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



Ages 7-16, Holland, NY

August 2-8 in Holland, NY.

Details on [Facebook](#).

Please [email us](#) for specific questions about camp.



This Woman's Point of View By Toni Van Pelt
An enforcement tool, *Fifty Shades of Grey*
"An old story, repackaged"

Fifty Shades of Grey, the selling of male violence, domination, powerful and wealthy, is a very old story, repeated throughout the generations. In my day it was the *Story of O*. Yes, most women are turned on by many of these images of sexual bondage, degradation and humiliation.

I used to be myself. From the time I first experienced sexual fantasies it was usually an image of me kneeling at the altar in the catholic church with a priest coming up from behind me, inserting his penis and telling me to pray. It went on from there.

I imagine a number of catholic girls had the same kind of fantasies from a tender age and perhaps boys. How can it be any different in this society, that we are all turned on by abusive sexual images? As in all of planetary society, it is the way we are brought up and continue to bring up children. It is a big part of the grooming of girls, women and boys to accept violence and degradation as "normal" by the larger community. It is a huge part of the slavery industry.

[\(Read More\)](#)



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.



Former Rep. Allen West: Church/State Separation is Responsible for Football Injuries

April 20, 2015 by [Hemant Mehta](#)

Last week, former **Rep. Allen West** spoke to a conservative group in Texas about the Freedom From Religion Foundation's [battle against formal pre-game prayers](#) at public school football games.

West explained that he [never got injured](#) when he played high school football because there was a team prayer before the games:

Now see, I remember growing up in the inner city of Atlanta, Georgia. I went to Grady High School and I played football. And we didn't have all this high-speed gear and everything like that. There was no such thing about "targeting." I mean, you were not a tough football player unless you *did* try to hit someone head-on.

And even in high school, before every game at Grady Stadium, the pastor would come down and pray over that football game. I don't remember catastrophic injuries. I don't remember anyone getting carted off that field paralyzed.

Miranda Blue at Right Wing Watch [notes that football injuries](#) have been [going on for a long time](#) — far before the Supreme Court banned [school-sponsored Bible readings](#) at public schools.

Also, keep in mind that professional football teams [have their own chaplains](#)... and the NFL isn't exactly known for its [injury prevention](#).

Not that West cares. Even when he's not in office, he's still pandering to religious conservatives with lies.

(via [Right Wing Watch](#))



Tampa Bay Computer Society

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology
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 *We repair our members computers for Free!*

Mischief follows in partisan Bible Translations

March 22, 2012 By [Fred Clark](#)

[Remember Junias?](#) He was the imaginary male apostle with the unique and implausible name. "Junias" was invented by patriarchal Bible translators and inserted into the text of scripture because those translators didn't like what the text actually said.

The text in question, Romans 16:7, says:

Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

Junia is a *woman's* name and it just wouldn't do to have people reading about a woman who was an apostle — let alone one who was "*prominent* among the apostles." For patriarchal Christians who insisted on a male-only hierarchy, Junia was intolerable. So they got rid of her. They translated her into an imaginary man with an imaginary name.

Politics — specifically, the political desire to control women — shaped the translation of that text. The translators *changed the words of the Bible* to make it seem like it supported their political agenda. They changed the words of the Bible so that others reading it would not be able to see that its actual words *challenged* and *contradicted* their political agenda.

This is something that happens sometimes.

Let me share another, more recent, example. Junias was invented and inserted into the Bible a long time ago, but this alteration of the text occurred in my lifetime. As I noted earlier, [this change in the words and meaning of the Bible is more recent than the introduction of the Happy Meal](#).



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

The Story of a Momentous Year: Milestone Triumphs in the Face of Great Challenges

2014 was a year of tremendous, groundbreaking achievements, advancing the causes of science, reason, and secularism in significant ways. It was also a year of incredible challenges, as the oppressors of free expression and the deniers of scientific reality accelerated their efforts to dismantle civilization's moral and intellectual progress. But with your support, the Center for Inquiry was instrumental in these milestone victories, and undaunted in the fight for the values of skepticism and humanism.

To tell the story of this remarkable year, we are proud to present to you our **annual report** for 2014, [Progress Report: Winning Landmark Victories, Confronting New Challenges](#).

<http://CenterForInquiry.net/Tampa>

Support [CFI-Tampa Bay](#), keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, and become a member!

JOIN NOW

BECOME A MEMBER: 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 freethinkers, all working together to give voice to your values.

Diluting Homeopathy

The FDA held [hearings on the marketing and regulation of homeopathic products](#), April 20 and 21, after years of urging by the Center for Inquiry. CFI's director of public policy, **Michael De Dora**, was among those leading off the first day of hearings with CFI's testimony on Monday, April 20. In our statement to the press, Michael said, "If the marketers and manufacturers of homeopathic treatments want people to use their products as medicine, then they should have to meet the same standards of safety and effectiveness as any other medicine. Let's see how they fare when they have the light of scientific rigor shined on them."

CFI-Tampa Bay & Humanist Society of the Suncoast present: Hyde Park Saturday – Get on your soapbox! Share your High Praise or a Low Opinion, a Burning Issue or Cold Shoulder, a New Idea or Old Wisdom. Take 3 minutes of open microphone to talk on any subject to an audience of your fellow humanists. Politics? Religion? National News? Local Issue? Speak your mind, unburden your soul. Oratory, Agitation, New Ideas, Dramatic Reading, Personal Story, Guerrilla Theater, Stand-up Comedy. Use your imagination. Then respect your fellow speakers during your turn to listen.



[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.

The meaning of life is not to be discovered only after death in some hidden, mysterious realm; on the contrary, it can be found by eating the succulent fruit of the Tree of Life and by living in the here and now as fully and creatively as we can. -- Paul Kurtz



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

CBC News reports: The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled the municipal council in the Quebec town of Saguenay cannot open its meetings with a prayer.

In a unanimous decision today, the country's top court said reciting a Catholic prayer at council meetings infringes on freedom of conscience and religion.

The ruling puts an end to an eight-year legal battle that began with a complaint filed by atheist Alain Simoneau and a secular-rights organization against Saguenay Mayor Jean Tremblay.

The court ordered the City of Saguenay and the mayor to stop the prayers. It also ordered the city and Tremblay to pay Simoneau a total of \$33,200 in compensatory damages, punitive damages and costs.

The Supreme Court did not rule out the presence of religious symbols, because it decided to limit the scope of its investigation to prayer only.

In 2011, Quebec's human rights tribunal ordered an end to prayers, demanded that a crucifix in the city council chamber be removed and awarded damages to Simoneau.

But the outspoken mayor fought back, raising money from supporters through the city's website. Tremblay said it was a battle for Quebec's Roman Catholic heritage.

The Quebec Court of Appeal overturned the tribunal's decision in 2013.

The appeals court expressed some reservations about religious symbols in the council chamber, but concluded

the city imposed no religious views on its citizens.

It ruled reciting a prayer does not violate the religious neutrality of the city and if the recitation interfered with Simoneau's moral values, the interference was trivial.

The Supreme Court of Canada agreed to hear the case last year.

State must be neutral, court rules

In 2008, city officials initially changed the prayer to one it deemed more neutral and delayed the opening of council by two minutes to allow citizens a window to return follow the reciting.

The Supreme Court said Canadian society has evolved and given rise to a "concept of neutrality according to which the state must not interfere in religion and beliefs."

READ the rest: <http://bit.ly/1cvZKDy>

Analysis: <http://bit.ly/1FZMxiR>

On April 15 2015, CBC asked: *Should official prayers be banned from government meetings?*

Here are the results:

- Yes: 1641 votes (82%)

- No: 353 votes (18%)

- Not sure: 13 votes (1%)

ROK

Days of Special Interest
May is National Flower Month

May 3 World Press Freedom Day

May 8-9 Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for the Second World War

May 10-11 World Migratory Bird Day

May 15 International Day of Families

May 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

May 22 International Day for Biological Diversity

May 31 World No-Tobacco Day



TBCoR Leadership Team 2015

Mark Brandt, Judy Adkins, Chris Brown, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas
UUCH TBS-AoF MAF TBHF CFI HSS, TBPCC AoF

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Be Included!

Group members are invited to send items for this Newsletter. Please send to: tbcornews@metrodirect.net
For calendar items, include URL for group or event.

Tampa Bay CoR

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



Tampa Bay Coalition – May, 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.



05 – several events See Spring calendar	EAST TAMPA Humanities Inst.at USF	See Web site for full listing of many great events and calendar. See page 7.
2 nd Wednesday eve. & 4 th Sunday	TEMPLE TERRACE UU Tampa Humanists	Sign up here: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/ Topics: http://uutampa.org/shaag-discussion-topics/
05-02, Saturday 2:00 PM	CLEARWATER- Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Lectures & discussions. To RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
05-08 & 09, See Web site	EAST TAMPA - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club at MOSI	Web site: http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/ for all details.
05-09, See Web site	BRADENTON- SARASOTA Humanist Families Tampa Bay	Family outings and other activities. See page 9 www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/
05-10, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON- Atheists of Brandon	Atheists in the Pub. RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/
05-10, Sunday, 2:30 PM BOARD MEETING	SOUTH TAMPA- See page 6 for details Atheists of Florida , Inc.	More: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/
05-16, Saturday 11:00 AM	CENTRAL TAMPA- Tampa Humanist Association	Details: Page 4 or see our Meetup http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
05-17, Sunday 5 PM	PINELLAS COUNTY Humanist Society Moveable Feast	This month's selection: see Page 3 http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
05-17 Social, Sunday 2:00 PM & 08-22 Triannual Lecture	SOUTH TAMPA- Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests & critical thinking. Click to RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Skeptics/
05-18, Monday, 7 PM 3 rd Monday monthly	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD- Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. For topic, see page 9. RSVP here: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP
05-19, Sunday, 2 PM 3 rd Sunday monthly	BRANDON- CFI Skeptics & Humanists	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
05-22, Friday, 8:00 PM 4 th Friday gen'l. mtg.	ST. PETERSBURG - Astronomy Club	For several dates, location, & and details: http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php
05-23, Saturday, 10:30 AM; <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. Limited to 12 paid-up <i>CFI members</i> . RSVP:is required. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
05-24, Saturday 12:30 PM SPECIAL EVENT	E CLEARWATER- UU Humanists	SPECIAL Sunday meeting: http://www.uuc.org/ See page 6 for more info on UU Humanists
05-24, Saturday 12:30 PM SPECIAL EVENT	SOUTH TAMPA Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay	Details & RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
05-25, Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA- CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 25!</i> Click here <i>before</i> midnight, Sunday the 24 th . For CFI paid members. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/

