

Freethought News

Vol. 5 No. 7, July 2016 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe,

What's Inside?

Political ads, Used cars, Immunizations, Climate Change, Miracles, Consumer goods, Commercials, etc.

Unified Calendar... 14

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* TB-CoR Org.

Ready for Skepti-Camp 2 ?

Remedies good for what ails ye. Remember what fun we had last time? Do you miss it? Don't be "left behind" this time, register now for SKEPTICAMP2 - August 27th, 2016, 1pm - 6pm (doors open at 12:30 PM.) Watch for more details as we get closer to the event. Limited seating. Tickets can be had at: [HTTP://aof.ngo/skepticamp2](http://aof.ngo/skepticamp2)

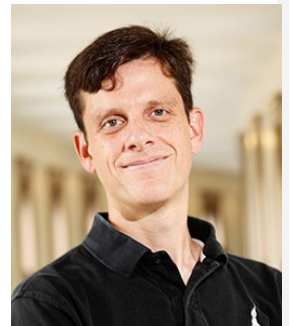
Tickets are available in advance for \$10 for AOF members (membership in the organization, not just in the meetup group), \$15 for non-AOF members (but includes a year membership in AOF.) Or, \$20 for at the door admission.

Babu Cogeneni "Human Angle Tour"
Coming July 9th at USF See page 11 for more, or go directly to www.evolutetampa.com



Daniel Ruth

Among our Skeptical Experts...



Dr. Ryan Cragun

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.

This publication online at: www.suncoasthumanist.com

Your published letters:

Cafeteria Christians & Muslims

"Cafeteria" brings thoughts of a lunch room or restaurant that features a large selection of food as you walk down a serving line. "Cafeteria" can also be applied to selecting which parts of a holy book, such as the Bible or the Koran, that one chooses to obey or reject. One reason so many people follow these books is that both contain something for everyone, from a pacifist to a blood-thirsty dictator. Which parts do you accept? Both books deny the concept of church-state separation, Islam being more open about it.

Remember that religion controlled Europe during the "dark ages," as has religion controlled most of the Middle East more recently. Learning from past religious domination in Europe, the founders of our constitution wisely made it a secular document. Muslim immigrants, as well as Bible literalists already living here, must understand the significance of church-state separation. The Constitution trumps all religious interpretations in America! **Frank Prahl**

Published- TBTimes 6-20-16

Remember the Consequences of our failure to see ourselves in the lives of others.



PULSE





Our 29th Year

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

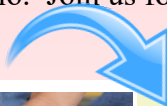
Mr. Laurel & Mr. Hardy

Introduced by:

*Dennis Reece, Grand Vizier, [Sons of the Desert](#)
The Clearwater Laurel & Hardy Society*



A good laugh is hard to come by these days; so were going to try for a few. And we'll learn a little about how things were. Dennis will take us back to the golden age of comedy at the Hal Roach Studio. Join us for a little release on a hot American day.



Tampa Bay Harvest

Food: the first kindness and the measure of our Hospitality. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. Money is more effective than cans to get the most benefit to the greatest number of people. Thanks to *Glenn Paul*, chair, and *Jordan Williams*. Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance. **We need volunteers!** Write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.

Please join us at

**2:00 PM
July 2nd***

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

Many of us go to dinner afterwards at: **[Marguerites Cafe](#)**. Directly across from the Library.

Volume 24 No. 7 July, 2016

Join or renew the Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Annual Dues.

- E-mail news -Free
- Regular - \$25**
- Reg. Couple - \$30.
- Supporter - \$35/40 (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"

Memo line: "Humanist Society Dues"

Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA

1013 Connecticut Rd

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

*= optional



Kay and Glenn Paul are both spending some recuperation time after some unfortunate medical misadventures. Give them a little call to help let them know that they are appreciated. Kay is at Health South 727.586.2999 Room 120 at 3:30 to 8. Reach Glenn at 727. 595-3347.



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 Movable Feast:
the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner
for July, is at ...the

ACROPOLE

1170 Starkey Rd, Largo, FL 33771, Largo
(Southern Extension of Keene)

We're changing our approach. Now its just open. No RSVP required. Trundle on down for the fine food and fastidiously fabulous fellowship! See [Menu](#). Be there on Sunday July 17th by **5 O'clock** to meet with our friends. 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 Travelers Complaints 7-16

ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY "THOMAS COOK VACATIONS" FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts." Thanx to Jan Eisler

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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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) 452-6547



Tampa Humanist Association

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

July 16th, 11 AM

Discussion Leader: *Lucas Hopegood*

As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above and within the level of conscious recognition. Using the instruments of reason, and critical thinking, we strive to be at one in understanding both the world that made us, and the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully and critically dissects a new intersection of mind and matter. Be part of it. Subject: **TBA**

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 \$10.

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
E-mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay, 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://www.tampabaycor.org/>



Member, TB-CoR,
Hum Society & AHA
affiliate.



4

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

Bill Norsworthy, is our Florida representative.

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

See page 7 for more information on our Secular Coalition activities around the National day of Reason. SC wants *you* to represent the voice of thousands of the people of reason in the halls of power.



A Humanist Discussion group in east Tampa !

UU Humanists of Tampa

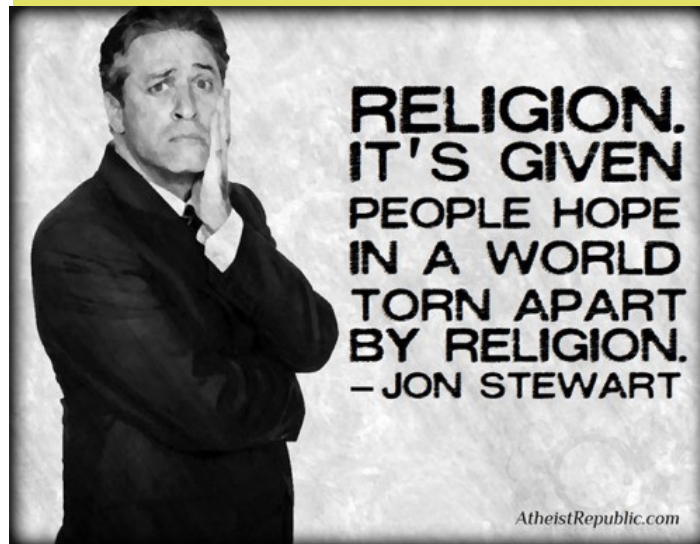
Meetings temporarily suspended for the summer.

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/>

Humanist Quotes



AtheistRepublic.com



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

As just about everyone knows, there are gaping chasms separating the worldviews of fossil fuel promoters, nuclear power advocates, and renewable energy supporters. But crucially, even among those who disdain fossils and nukes, there is a seemingly unbridgeable gulf between those who say that solar and wind power have unstoppable momentum and will eventually bring with them lower energy prices and millions of jobs, and those who say these intermittent energy sources are inherently incapable of sustaining modern industrial societies and can make headway only with massive government subsidies.

This is especially the case because our ultimate conclusion was that, while renewable energy can indeed power industrial societies, there is probably no credible future scenario in which humanity will maintain current levels of energy use (on either a per capita or total basis). Therefore current levels of resource extraction, industrial production, and consumption are unlikely to be sustained—much less can they perpetually grow. Further, getting to an optimal all-renewable energy future will require hard work, investment, adaptation, and innovation on a nearly unprecedented scale. We will be changing more than our energy sources; we'll be transforming both the ways we use energy and the amounts we use. Our ultimate success will depend on our ability to dramatically reduce energy demand in industrialized nations, shorten supply chains, electrify as much usage as possible, and adapt to economic stasis at a lower overall level of energy and materials throughput. Absent widespread informed popular support, the political roadblocks to such a project will be overwhelming.

Renewable energy is a complicated subject, and a fact-based, robust assessment of it should be honest and informative; its aim should be to start new and deeper conversations, not merely to shout down either criticism or boosterism. Meanwhile the need for the energy transition is urgent, and the longer it is delayed, the less desirable the outcome will be.

It is no exaggeration to say that the transition from climate-damaging and depleting fossil fuels to renewable energy sources is the central cause of our times.

And it will demand action from each and every one of us.

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



TBCoR Leadership Team 2016

Toni Van Pelt
~ ISHV

Bill Norsworthy
UUCH

Mark Brandt,
UUCH

Chris Brown,
MAF

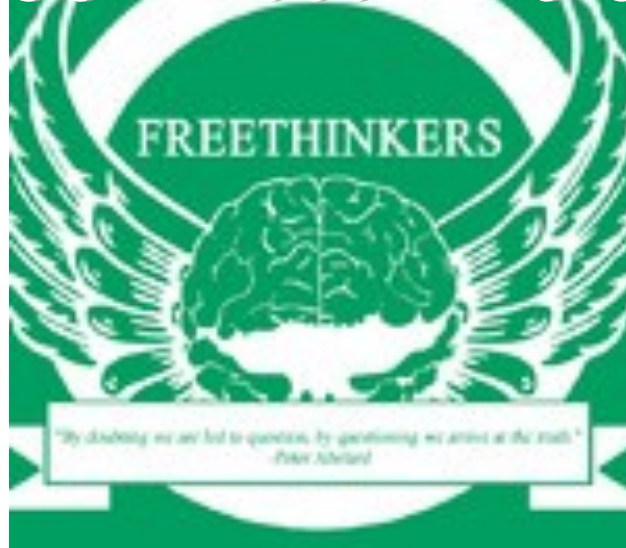
Jenn Hancock,
TBHF

Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS

Jim Peterson,
HSS, TBCC

Al Hann
AoF ~

USF Freethinkers



Thursday, Jul 7, 5:30 pm

Join Freethinkers@USF at MSC 2702 for genuine, conversational discourse and a communal atmosphere. Freethinkers@USF is a cosmopolitan collective of USF students promoting critical thinking and pluralism through dialogue and reasonable inquiry. Join the official group and vote on upcoming discussions:

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

For more information contact: fadibitar@mail.usf

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc.

(SPAC), has been meeting continuously since 1927.

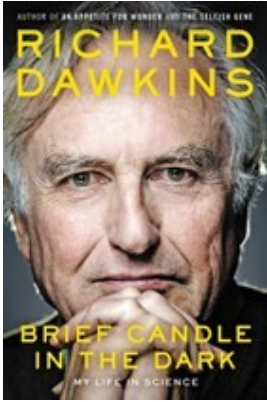
It was incorporated in 1979 as a nonprofit, tax deductible organization.

For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members and the public. For additional information send your emails to: spacexaminer@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.



Meaningful Books



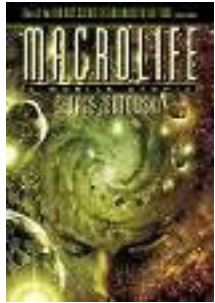
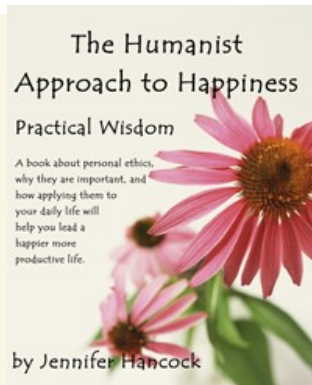
The last few copies, signed by Richard Dawkins, are available. This is his recent autobiography that he presented to us in Clearwater last October.

Order here:

<http://bit.ly/EvolveTampa>

Our own Jennifer Hancock's popular book that guides readers into happiness through applied Humanist ethics. Look at reviews, applicability, and discount savings here:

<http://happiness.jen-hancock.com>



[Macrolife](#) | George Zebrowski

Inspired by the possibilities of space settlements, projections of biology and cosmology, and basic human longings, *Macrolife* is a visionary speculation on the long-term future of human and natural history. Filled with haunting images and memorable characters, this is a vivid and brilliant work.

Investigator Joe Nickell applies psychological and scientific scrutiny to many varied claimed "miracles". How many of them seem valid? Are they all due to faulty perception or recall, bias, hoaxing and the will to believe?

Buy here: <http://bit.ly/1RdWPLR>

Looking for a Miracle



Weeping Icons, Relics, Stigmata, Visions & Healing Cures

Joe Nickell



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 is available at [Google Books](#) now. But the first [can be found here](#).

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!**

AUTHOR

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Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis
Josef Finsel
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Michael J. Sandel
Howard Shilit
Darrel Ray, ED.D
Dave Eagers
St. Clair McKelway
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 pro-tem, Al Hann



Join members of our Tampa chapter at our new headquarters / Studio Building

see [AoF Meetup](#) for details
Website: <http://aof.ngo>

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

Our Program for July 10th 2016 5004 S. MacDill Ave Tampa

A representative from the Tampa Chapter of the ACLU will meet with us and discuss the various religious groups that have infiltrated our school to spread their religion. AOF met with the school superintendent in January to discuss our concerns about Idlewild Baptist Church and First Priority, two groups that have crossed the line of state church separation in our public schools. We also contacted a number of other Florida school districts, since First Priority is a statewide organization and has gone into a number of schools throughout Florida.

Your Career in Showbiz

Atheists of Florida is currently producing a regular online video series, the *Atheist Forum*, from our studio in South Tampa. We are always seeking help with the production either as crew members; writers, producers, camera, switchboard operators, or as participants for our program usually consisting of two or more presenters discussing a particular topic relating to science, education, state/church separation, art, philosophy, or a thousand other topics.

This is a great experience dealing with exciting ideas and interesting people on a project that can make a significant contribution to the social and intellectual vibrancy of our community. Sessions are on Thursday nights, contingent on talent. If you would like to participate, contact AoF's Chris Brown at: aof@aof.ngo.

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 7:00 PM

Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com

On the web: <http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

- * Provide intellectual and emotional support to each other and to others in our community who share our philosophy.
- * Foster humanistic moral values and ethical behaviors.
- * Promote a naturalistic worldview wherein beliefs must be verified by a scientific examination of evidence.
- * Defend the separation of church and state at all levels of government as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.
- * "To Smell the Roses Along the Way"

Clearwater UU Humanists Usually on the 3rd Sunday, at 12:30

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.



Clearwater, Florida

**This month, our meeting will be at
Chili's Restaurant
At East Bay and US-19
on Saturday, July 16th at 6 PM**

Jokes and amusing comments to be provided by the attendees, along with paying their own way. First come, first served. Conviviality: no charge.

Political ads, Used cars, Immunizations, Climate Change, Miracles, Consumer goods, Commercials, etc.

Ready for Skepti-Camp 2 ?

Remedies good for what ails ye. Remember what fun we had last time? Do you miss it? Don't be "left behind" this time, register now for SKEPTICAMP2 - August 27th, 2016, 1pm - 6pm (doors open at 12:30 PM.) Watch for more details as we get closer to the event. Limited seating. Tickets can be had at: [HTTP://aof.ngo/skepticamp2](http://aof.ngo/skepticamp2)

[Sign up to be a discussion leader now](#)

This will be a fundraiser for AOF as well as continuing education for the community. Tickets are available in advance for \$10 for AOF members (membership in the organization, not just in the meetup group), \$15 for non-AOF members (but includes a year membership in AOF.) Or, \$20 at the door for everyone. See report of the first one [here](#).

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*.

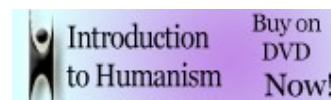


Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings 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](#). See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.

Thank you! **Jennifer Hancock**



Tampa Bay Thinkers



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

July 18th Topic:

"The Coddling of the American Mind" in colleges

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



The Institute for Science and Human Values

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

Dying with Dignity: An Unresolved Problem

The Institute for Science and Human Values (ISHV) has been approached by nursing home directors explaining that their secular patients are not being provided for, by either the facility or the patients families. They wonder how they can help. I have comforted those who are frightened to identify as non-theist for fear that proper medical care will be denied them when they find themselves requiring hospital and hospice stays states Toni Van Pelt, ISHV President. She know many secular humanists wishes are denied by their families concerning burial and funeral services, she continues To date there has been little discussion and less research as to how widespread these problems are, and what can be done.

Ed note: one possible solution is to ask members of our groups to volunteer to visit hospices to help.



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.tampa-bay.org

We repair our member's computers Free!





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.

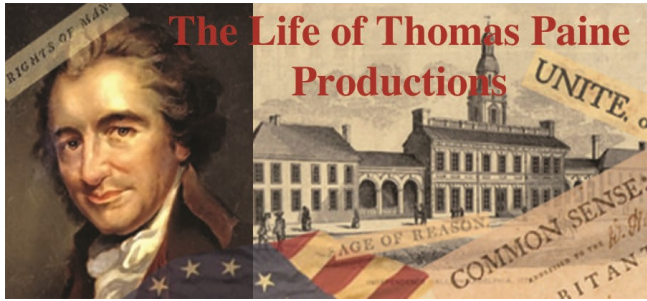


Rick O'Keefe

This CFI-Tampa Bay video presentation will take place as listed here:

http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup

Time(s) and venue(s) will be listed there. *RSVP is required* as seating is limited to 50 attendees per performance.



Presenting:

“To Begin the World Over Again: the Life of Thomas Paine” by Ian Ruskin

Congratulations on a moving, inspiring, and completely contemporary film...looking forward to this film launching many conversations about justice and democracy. Lisa Leeman, Documentary Filmmaker.

The timing for such a presentation is spot on and the actor's performance is wonderful and compelling. Lori Conway, Boston Film & Video.

What comes through clearly is Paine's passion and willingness to sacrifice for his beliefs. The arc of the story is near perfect. Thomas E. Patterson, Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press, Harvard University

I've just watched your Thomas Paine film. I rejoiced in it. It is magnificent. Lewis Lapham, editor of Lapham's Quarterly and editor emeritus of Harper's Magazine.

This 59 – minute film of Ian Ruskin's acclaimed one-man play has gathered praise from all who have attended preview screenings. It is that rare historical drama that addresses a multitude of contemporary issues that challenge us today. Paine's story also inspires us to “always speak the truth as one sees it, no matter the consequences, no matter the consequences”.

The film was shot at the Lillian Theatre in Hollywood with an exemplary crew led by legendary Director of Cinematography Haskell Wexler. Ian Ruskin plays Thomas Paine and Elliott Gould voices the narration. Original music was composed by Joe Romano and Graham Moore's “Tom Paine's Bones” closes out the film.

The National Educational Telecommunications Association is distributing the film to public television stations nationwide this year, the Presidential election year. The Life of Thomas Paine Productions is organizing Screening Parties across America as part of a grassroots movement to take the story of Thomas Paine to as many Americans as possible.

The film also has an international appeal – Paine considered himself a “Citizen of the World” – and we are talking to distributors about the film airing in England, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, among other countries.

Paine literally changed the world through his pen but remains the most misunderstood man in American history, revered and quoted by all and every aspect of our political spectrum. He was one of the world's greatest political writers and worst politicians, a very nearly deadly combination across the world! It is time to present this story, written with the oversight of five of America's distinguished Paine scholars, to challenge these misconceptions.

Ian Ruskin (Thomas Paine) is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. He founded The Harry Bridges Project in 2000 and has written, performed and produced many plays and radio and film documentaries, including From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks about labor leader Harry Bridges. He has performed the play over 250 times to approximately 50,000 people, including the Houses of Parliament and the Scottish Parliament. The film version, directed and shot by multi-Academy Award winner Haskell Wexler, aired nationwide on PBS for 4 years. His new play and film To Begin the World Over Again: the Life of Thomas Paine continues his mission to present the stories of forgotten and misunderstood heroes from American and European history.

Elliott Gould (the Narrator) is known for a iconic body of work which includes Mash, Bob & Ted & Carol & Alice, A Bridge Too Far, Capricorn One, The Lady Vanishes, The Long Goodbye, Ocean's Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen and Contagion, among many others He appeared in ten seasons of Friends, has hosted Saturday Night Live six times and was on the cover of Time Magazine twice. This is his second collaboration with Ian, and both of them share a commitment to their union and the American labor movement.

Support **CFI-Tampa Bay**

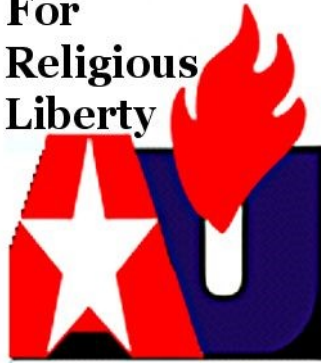
Join now to keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, and become a member!

JOIN NOW

A Florida rabbi may have lost his job because he protested Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at a conference in Washington, D.C.

A Tradition of Advocacy

**For
Religious
Liberty**



The Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) reported that Temple Beth David in Palm Beach Gardens recently declined to renew the contract of Rabbi David Paskin. Exactly why that happened, however, is unclear.

Back in March, Paskin joined a group protested Trump's appearance at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference by walking out. According to JTA, about 300 people from the audience of 18,000 walked out on Trump.

AIPAC's conference this year featured big-name speakers besides Trump, such as Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, Vice President Joe Biden (D) and U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R). The group's decision to invite Trump was seen as controversial from the start, and the group ultimately apologized for the reality TV star's appearance afterward because Trump failed to obey a longstanding conference rule when he advanced a partisan agenda.

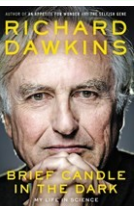
Shortly after Trump's AIPAC talk, Paskin said in an open letter posted on Facebook that his opposition to the real estate mogul was not well received.

"My family has been threatened and, yes, many at Temple Beth David have been unsettled by my choice to participate," he wrote. "I am sorry that my actions have caused pain amongst some in our community. I hope we have a chance to share together in a respectful dialogue. I promise to respect your opinions and choices. I only ask that you do the same for me."

There is no evidence that Paskin broke any laws, however: Tax-exempt entities like houses of worship and other 501(c)(3) nonprofits are strictly prohibited from endorsing or opposing candidates for office, but that prohibition only applies to endorsements that utilize church resources. Paskin's protest appears to have been a personal decision, and it occurred far from his pulpit.

Despite the loss of his job, Paskin seems comfortable with his choice. "I don't pull any punches," he told JTA. "I'm pretty transparent about what I feel and what I think. Could I have been more delicate? I'm sure I could have been. I speak my heart, and I heard a call and an obligation to speak out, and I took that. I acted on my values and I don't regret that." This situation shows the difficulties that can arise when faith leaders dive into politics. Paskin absolutely had the right to speak his mind about Trump, since he seems to have done so on his own. At the same time, Temple Beth David had the right to part ways with its rabbi over this issue.

And given the fervor that surrounds this presidential election in particular, we expect many clergy will struggle with how to support or oppose either Trump or Clinton in the coming months. Paskin is likely just the first this year to face adversity over his politics.



Looking for a copy of Richard Dawkins' book?

Exclusive autographed copy, including our program brochure, and bookmark for only \$46.95 plus S&H. Stock is going fast! Go to:

www.evolutetampa.com

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 REPORT
Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



This is huge – the **Federal Communications Commission proposed the first ever privacy protections governing Broadband Internet Service Providers.**

This could be one of the biggest wins for online privacy we've seen in a long time.

But the broadband carriers are putting up a fight. Big companies – like Verizon and Comcast – And they're lobbying the FCC hard to weaken new rules so they can monitor our data.

The FCC is taking public comments about the new rules.

Now is our chance to send a direct message to the FCC to tell them to make the rules as strong as possible.

When Americans pick up the telephone to call a doctor or a bank, they don't have to worry the phone company will sell information about those calls to advertisers. It's common sense – and it's the law.



Connect with the [ACLU of Florida](http://www.aclu.org)

**BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T
PROTECT ITSELF
JOIN THE ACLU**

Tampa Bay CoR welcomes new Freethought Group

Inaugural Freethought Fellowship Meetup

When: July 24, 2016 @ 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: Spirit of Life UU (18412 Burrell Road

Odessa, FL, 33556

Contact: MAILTO: info@meetup.com [Tampa Bay](#)

Join us to hear about our local creative community, and the growth of Makerspaces throughout the Tampa Bay area, and enjoy some homegrown music followed by a potluck social afterwards

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.



CSICon 2016: An Oasis of Reason in the Desert

It's time for skeptics everywhere to gather in a town full of magical thinking! [CSICon 2016](#), the year's biggest skeptics' conference, will take place **October 27–30 in Las Vegas!** Get set to bring your critical mind to the City of Light, where you'll hear from the icons of skepticism, such as the amazing **James Randi**, evolutionary biologist **Richard Dawkins**, science education champion **Eugenie Scott**, memory expert **Elizabeth Loftus**, physicist **Lawrence Krauss**, climate scientist **Michael Mann**, *The New Yorker's* **Maria Konnikova**, and so many more.

The conference will take place in the stellar Excalibur Hotel and Casino and will feature amazing presentations, illuminating workshops, a Halloween costume party, and, being that this is the Excalibur, a joust dinner at the Tournament of Kings.

This is no illusion; it's really happening. Investigate it for yourself, [and register right now](#).

The Human Angle Tour

Conversations with



Babu Gogineni

Saturday, July 9th 2 PM to 5 at the Marshall Student Center Rm 2709,

University of South Florida

Director of the International Humanist and Ethical Union

"A scientific Approach to Life"

Learn more : <http://www.evolvetampa.com/>

Is it more probable that nature should go out of her course, or that a man should tell a lie? We have never seen, in our time, nature go out of her course; but we have good reason to believe that millions of lies have been told in the same time; it is, therefore, at least millions to one, that the reporter of a miracle tells a lie. ~ Thomas Paine

The Other Social Justice

By David Koepsell

Not all justice is served by negative or positive law. As we well know, sometimes the law is itself a vehicle for injustice and some sort of extra-legal strategy is necessary to either change the law or deliver some just reward or punishment. Society itself may exact justice through our individual and collective treatment of subjects and individuals. Sometimes such action is pejoratively referred to as “mob justice” and there is a several-thousand-year-old history of this sort of action. The earliest historical accounts of such mob justice trace back to the Athenian practice of “ostracism.” For several hundred years, Athens and other city-states could expel any citizen using the process of ostracism, effectively banning them from returning under pain of harsher punishment, and for any reason they chose. To accomplish this, eligible citizens would vote in the agora, and if some certain number of votes supported ostracism, the target was expelled for ten years.

Targets of ostracism were often political and not infrequently the ostracism was pre-emptive. In other words, the person ostracized may have been seen to be a threat, because of some behavior and often for supporting or potentially becoming a tyrant and upsetting democracy. Effectively, ostracism was (and still is) a tool for some community to punish some behavior of a member without recourse to formal law. Greek city-state ostracism fell into disuse as laws began to replace this extra-legal practice, and following some rather unsavory incidents in which the ostracism was likely used to advance particular political agendas or persons. ... Read the rest [HERE](#)

**What's the future of consumerism...
in a world without fossil fuels?**

Join a lively, free-flowing conversation about the future of consumerism in a 100% renewable energy future.
Annie Leonard and John de Graaf
June 30, 2016 at 12:30pm Pacific/3:30pm Atlantic
bit.ly/ORFconsumerism



The Institute for Science and Human Values

Inspired by Empathy and Creativity, guided by Reason

Paul Kurtz, Founder • Jonathan Kurtz, Chairman



The Coalition Against Religious Discrimination

May 10, 2016

Re: CARD Opposes Taxpayer-Funded Employment Discrimination

82 religious, education, civil rights, labor, and women's organizations wrote to voice strong opposition to any amendments to S. 2814, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2017, that would sanction taxpayer-funded employment discrimination.

The government should never fund discrimination and no taxpayer should be disqualified from a job under a federal contract or grant because he or she is the “wrong” religion.

While expressing appreciation for the important role religiously affiliated institutions historically have played in addressing many of our nation's most pressing social needs, as a complement to government funded programs, they also recognized that the separation of church and state is the linchpin of religious freedom. In their view, effective government collaboration with faith-based groups does not require the sanctioning of federally funded religious discrimination.

Because it is inconsistent with the longstanding principle that federal dollars must not be used to discriminate, we urge you to reject any efforts to sanction taxpayer-funded employment discrimination in federal contracts and grants.

Toni Van Pelt, President and Public Policy Director [website. www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.net](http://www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.net)



Katha Pollitt and Soraya Chemaly Added to Women in Secularism 4

Few events in the freethought world have sparked as much conversation, debate, and inspiration as CFI's Women in Secularism conferences. It's been almost two years since the third such conference, and the time has come to reconvene on this pivotal topic.

[Women in Secularism 4](#) will be taking place September 23–25 in Arlington, VA, and there are many things to talk about: The intrusion of religion into women's lives; violence against women around the world who refuse to let dogma relegate them to second-class status; the role of "safe spaces" within a movement that champions free expression; and so much more.

And now, the conference is adding journalists and activists **Katha Pollitt** and **Soraya Chemaly** to an already incredible lineup of speakers that includes **Rebecca Goldstein**, **Julia Sweaney**, **Bonya Rafida Ahmed**, **Melanie Brewster**, **Wendy Kaminer**, **Kavin Senapathy**, and many more.

So don't wait. [Register](#) for this highly anticipated conference now.

The mission of the American Humanist Association loosely

translated into **Emoji**

"The mission of the American Humanist Association is to 🎥 humanism, an 🙌 and life-affirming philosophy 🆓 of 🏠 in any 🏛️ 🕌 🏰 and other 🦄 🧙 🌟 forces. 📣 for 🏛️ for nontheists and a society guided by 🤔, ❤️, and our 📈 📖 of the 🌍, the AHA promotes a 🌍 📡 that encourages 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑 to live informed and meaningful lives that aspire to the greater 👍."

A Stellar New Way to Join the Center for Inquiry

The Center for Inquiry is an ambitious and wide-ranging organization that tackles what can seem like a staggering array of issues, producing several distinctive media products and serving an intellectually and philosophically diverse community, with branches and affiliates, big and small, all over the world. But grounding all these dynamic efforts is a set of core principles, the mission to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values.

Existing in so many places at once has also meant that there have been myriad avenues to becoming a member of CFI—through a local branch, a subscription, a supporting organization, or what have you. With the [ongoing merger](#) with the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science, things had the potential to get even more complicated.

But no more! This week, CFI proudly announced a [revamping of its membership program](#), unifying and simplifying membership so that it's easier to take part in, with benefits that are clearer and universal (in more ways than one).

So if you're a die-hard *Skeptical Inquirer* fan or if you devour *Free Inquiry* issues; if you champion science and secularism at the national and international levels, or if you cultivate community at local branches; if you're a longtime CFI supporter or if you're newly coming from the Dawkins Foundation, there's [one simple way to become a member](#), and that membership applies across the board and across the country.

To become a member of the Center for Inquiry (and get to flourish the new, smart-looking membership card), just go to [centerforinquiry.net/membership](#) and choose among the various levels, from "Planetary" to "Universal." Each level up brings great gifts and benefits, and no matter where you're coming from, the benefits apply everywhere. [Learn more about the new program here](#), and then choose your cosmic phenomenon to symbolize your commitment to our shared mission.

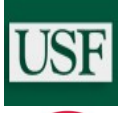
Tampa Bay Coalition – JULY, 2016 Calendar of Reason



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.
Your **RSVP** is requested, and often is required for admittance. *Meeting planners need this information.*
Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://www.tampabaycor.org/>



07-04 & 17, see the link	TAMPA BAY AREA– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN
07-08, Friday, 7 PM at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1081Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home
07-09, Saturday, 2 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Monthly - Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists
07-10 & 21, see the write-up in this newsletter.	CLEARWATER & S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida , Inc.	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup
07-16, Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists
07-17, Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Social, with Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP : http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
07-23, Saturday, 10:30 AM; 4 th Saturdays monthly. <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 12 <i>paid-up CFI members</i> . RSVP is required . http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
07-25, Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required . Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members</i> . http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
07-30, Saturday, 2 PM	TBA – Center for Inquiry	Thomas Paine Special - Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
Annual Social, see the write-up in this newsletter.	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists
Click on the link	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers
Every 4 th Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar
Summer break Lectures & receptions	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary!



Watch for the special *Life of Thomas Paine* video performance by noted stage actor Ian Ruskin. Elliott Gould voices the narration. Presented by Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay. Limited to 50 attendees. Details and RSVP here: http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup



2017 Freethought Cruise with Hemant Mehta

<https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/>

March 16-20, 2017