

Freethought News

Vol. 5 No. 10, October 2016 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe,

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* TB-CoR Org.

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar
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Web site
Jim Peterson

Newsletter
[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects
Mark Brandt
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:
www.evolvetampa.com

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

How to Become Stress Resilient through *Emotional Intelligence*

presented by Coach, **Lisa Chernow**

Emotional Intelligence is a set of emotional and social skills that collectively establish how well we

- perceive and express ourselves
- develop and maintain relationships
- cope with challenges
- use emotional information in a meaningful way

Stress can have a significant impact on your health, well-being and ability to make effective decisions.

Functional Fitness and Nutrition has been shown to increase brain health, delay or prevent the onsite of Alzheimer's Disease.

(And, did you know we lose 1% of our muscle and bone mass each year after about age 35? The good news is, Lisa has tricks of the trade that are nonthreatening and fun...that will help you develop stronger bones and muscles.)

Research has shown that stress contributes to as much as 66% of all visits to primary-care physicians and 85% of medical accidents.

Fortunately, many tools are available to help you combat the negative effects of stress. The key is an "ARSENAL" of Emotional Intelligence tools that will help you build a Stress Resilient System™ enabling you to make better and effective decisions under stress and reducing your recovery time following a stressful event.

In this presentation, Lisa Chernow will provide an overview of Emotional Intelligence and stress resilience, giving you insight into how to increase your physical and emotional health help you get started on your own personal development plan. She'll bring some fun fitness and relaxation "toys" to play with and basic versions of the EQ (Emotional Intelligence) and ARSENAL stress resilience assessments for you to fill out prior to her talk, so you can have insight on your results during her presentation.

Lisa is a relative newcomer to the Tampa Bay area. She moved here from Austin Texas, where she ran her practice as a communications specialist for subject matter experts, businesses and nonprofit organizations for 35 years. She facilitates board meetings and workshops in corporate culture, leadership development and social media administration that is both HIPPA and NLRB compliant. Lisa has, in recent years, turned her attention to her coaching practice. She is a certified coach in Emotional Intelligence, EQi-2.0 and EQi-360, ARSENAL Stress resilience, Executive, Leadership, Team and Individual development. She is also a certified Trikke trainer and enjoys sharing the fun of riding the low impact vehicle that helped her lose more than 100 pounds after recovering from a long illness.

Join us: October 01, 2016, 2 PM, at Dunedin Public Library.
Details & RSVP <http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists>



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast News

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

Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL

This month's lecture/ discussion is listed on the cover. We invite you to show support for Suncoast Humanists by attending, bringing non-perishable food for Tampa Bay Harvest (we are doing well with this, but the need continues), and money for membership/ renewal (see the column to the right).

Our group promotes civic participation, intellectual development for people of all ages, and hands-on support for our members, by members. This last is crucial as our population ages, loses family and friends, and becomes individually increasingly isolated. When we need them most, our once familiar supports vanish to be replaced by many fears and impediments. It is the humanist way to make the effort to aid one another. How will we do it? Or, should we think, "That's true," then sigh and forget about it? What's your opinion?

Volume 24 No. 9 October ????, 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



Tampa Bay Harvest

Please join us at

**2:00 PM
October 1st**

([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.

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.

Kay and Glenn Paul are both spending some recuperation time after unfortunate medical misadventures. Give them a little call to help let them know that they are appreciated. Reach them 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 *October* 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](#).

Sunday, October 16th 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 10-16

Nine months after New York City began recruiting welfare recipients to work from home as telephone psychics, city officials decided that there was no future in it.

Yesterday, Jason A. Turner, commissioner of the city's Human Resources Administration, announced the end of the city's arrangement with a company calling itself Psychic Network.

"Though H.R.A. believes people should have the freedom to choose their own employment, H.R.A.'s Business Link has decided not to include the Psychic Network as one of its participating employers," Mr. Turner said in a one-paragraph statement issued yesterday.

Any business that hires a welfare recipient for at least three months can qualify for thousands of dollars in wage subsidies and state and federal tax credits.

"There's no criteria at all," said Carmen Ortiz, national coordinator of the tax credit program said in a recent interview.

Michael Kaufman, a financial economist with the United States Treasury Department, estimated the federal tax credits granted nationwide in the program at \$370 million.

[This is real!] <http://events.nytimes.com/learning/students/pop/articles/ny-welfare-psyhic.html>

"Anyone who is capable of getting themselves made President should on no account be allowed to do the job." ~
[Douglas Adams, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#)

Humanist society

of the Suncoast

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

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~*~*~*~*~*~

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:

[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
North Tampa Public Library

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

October 15th, 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 Learn more about the association at: <http://tampahumanist.com/>



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



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.

As our government undergoes its quadrennial crises of morphology, the secular coalition is needed to remind citizens and officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots requires your involvement.



Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!



CFI-Tampa Bay is offering these elegant license plate surrounds. Legal, sturdy, fits all US plates - easy to install. 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 secular / 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/>

Humanist Quotes

"Science adjusts its views based on what's observed. Faith is the denial of observation so that belief can be observed."
 ~ Tim Minchin

A Humanist Discussion group in east Tampa !

UU Humanists of Tampa

Meetings temporarily suspended.

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/>



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

What if the “Shale Revolution” is really just a “Shale Bubble?”

In the seven years since hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) has brought a surge of new oil and natural gas production to the United States, our nation’s public conversation about energy has stalled. Politicians, business leaders, pundits, and even some environmental groups now repeat the same conventional wisdom: The risks of fracking for tight oil and shale gas are far outweighed by the decades of abundant, affordable domestic energy we’re getting in return.

Based on optimistic U.S. Department of Energy forecasts and industry rhetoric, this conventional wisdom has had major implications on federal, state, and local energy and climate policy — including the push to fast-track Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and lift the oil export ban, shut down coal-fired power plants, transition vehicle fleets, and more. These may sound great in theory, but what if they are based on a false premise?

Since 2011, Post Carbon Institute has been the primary national voice questioning the prevailing view of the “shale revolution.” We’ve released groundbreaking reports, held public and policymaker briefings, interviewed with media, produced creative messaging campaigns, and partnered with other organizations concerned about the rush to develop unconventional oil and gas resources.

Visit shalebubble.org

USF Freethinkers

Join Freethinkers@USF 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

Tampa Astronomy Club

Welcome to the [Museum Astronomical Resource Society](#), also known as the M.A.R.S. astronomy club. M.A.R.S. is sponsored by the [Museum of Science and Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League](#) and [Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news and astronomical information to our membership and to the public.

There's only one thing the people of M.A.R.S. enjoy more than observing the heavens... that's sharing it with others! Whether you are new to astronomy and curious about how to experience it, or a seasoned veteran looking for an active club to spend observation time with. We invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings as our honored guest.

Monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd floor of MOSI in the Science Works Theater, and take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Details & RSVP: <https://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/>

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:

spaceaminer@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. [Calendar](#)



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, TBPC Al Hann, AoF ~

Recommended Books

WOMEN BEYOND BELIEF

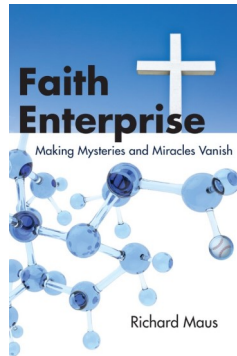
Discovering Life without Religion



Edited by Karen L. Garst, PhD

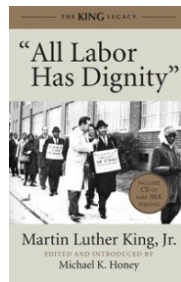
Women Beyond Belief: Discovering Life without Religion, edited by Dr. Karen Garst, “adds a focus on women and the role this mythology [religion] has played in the culture of many countries to denigrate and subordinate women. She states that “Religion is the last cultural barrier to gender equality.” Essays from women who found the liberation that freedom from religion brings. [Preorder now.](#)

Richard Maus consolidates his years of educating budding critical thinkers and study of beliefs that moved him from Christian to freethinker. The book is straightforward, clear, and concise. It’s a very good explication of the nonsense (literally) that we call religion, specially Christianity. Should be a book club favorite. Details and ordering [here.](#)



This [revised book](#) is filled with easy-to-do and kid-friendly projects show that kids can make a difference, and each chapter is packed with tons of links to groups and resources. What makes this book stand out, though, is that it doesn't just inform kids, it encourages them to make a difference by providing them, their friends and their families the tools to take action.

Covering all the civil rights movement highlights, award-winning historian Michael K. Honey introduces and traces Dr. M.L. King's dream of [economic equality](#). Gathered in one volume for the first time, the majority of these speeches will be new to most readers. Increase your understanding of King's lasting vision of economic justice, bringing his demand for equality right into the present.



THE
FIRST
ORIGINAL
THOUGHTS
ATHEISTS
ON NONBELIEF
EDITED BY
S. T. JOSHI

This is [the first anthology](#) ever published to feature the writings of leading eighteenth-century thinkers on the subjects of atheism, religion, freethought, and secularism. “This anthology brilliantly samples the work of the leading thinkers of the European and American Enlightenments that culminated in our era’s secular naturalism. Especially relevant are the sections by Locke, Jefferson, and Madison that counter the regressive efforts by today’s religious Right to lead us back to the Dark Ages.” Edd Doerr

Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought goodies:
Pins, jewelry, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc

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

#	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 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 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?	Crugun – Phillips
77.	Culture of Honor	Nisbett – Cohen
78.	Rot on the Vine	Stenesh
79.	Thoughts of a Freethinker	Kaye

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

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



Tracy Thomas; President pro-tem, Al Hann

Join members of our Tampa chapter at our headquarters / Studio Building on So. Westshore.

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

AoF [Family Fun Day & Potluck](#)

Sunday, October TBA 2016, 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM at Ed's home.

- Get together to build our community - have fun - and share good food. Bring your favorite dish to share, enough for 8.
- Dogs and cats live at this house.
- There is a pool, so bring your swim suit if you wish.

advertisement

"Give me a lever long enough and a place to stand, and I will move the world." - Archimedes

Do you suffer from dyspepsia, miasma, ague, calenture, bilious fever, cardialgia, acidity, pyrosis, water-brash, grass/stomach staggers, impure blood, indigestion, constipation, loss of appetite, biliousness, headache, jaundice, loss of memory, piles, eruptions of the skin, general debility, rheumatism, and all diseases arising from disordered liver, bowels or kidneys?

The Rev. Dr. Pettifog Grifter has the Biblical remedy, as conceived of by Solomon himself! Namely: **Mother's Mover**. Contains *ONLY* pure Water, Milk of Magnesium, and Purified Prune Squeezings. Order now.

"It moved me to tears!" Magnolia from Miss.

Remember, our blessed syrup are always

**00%
OFF**

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

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.



Sunday, [October 16](#), 12:30

ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay

[Philando Castile's fate could have been my fiancé's](#)

Can you imagine what it is like to wake up every day in fear, knowing today could be the last you see your fiancé because of the color of his skin?

As an African American woman, I constantly live in fear my fiancé or myself will not make it home to one another every night.

I fear that one of us will be stopped by the police for a broken taillight and shot down in fear, like Philando Castile. I fear one of us will be gunned down after heading to the convenience store for skittles, like Trayvon Martin. I fear we will be out together, enjoying our evening, and one of us will be shot down for laughing, like Rekia Boyd. I fear I will call upon a neighbor for help after being in an accident and be shot down, like Renisha McBride. I fear my fiancé will be out celebrating with friends the night before our wedding, and be executed because a cellphone was mistaken for a gun, like Sean Bell.

I am afraid that because of how I look, I too could be executed regardless of the circumstances.

[Continue Reading »](#)

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008.
Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa,
every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.

October 17th

Topic: tba

See our Meetup site:

www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
for more information.

The Military Association of Atheists & 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,

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

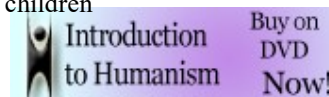
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly Humanist Way of life. Jennifer is author of several books including: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine*.



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

Throughout the year we host parties like Darwin Day in February, World Humanist Day in June, Freethought Day at Disney in October and Carl Sagan Day in November. Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).

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



**The Institute
for Science
and Human
Values**

Toni Van Pelt
President and Public Policy Director
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.

Mail: 11280 Freedom Ct., Seminole, FL 33772
Email: tvanpelt@ishv.net
Web: www.ishv.net

**Our Beautiful & Relentless
Letter Writer has died.**



Abigail Martin
September 16th



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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

U.S. Presidential Candidates Answer ScienceDebate 2016 Questions

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 20, 2016 —All four major candidates for United States president have now responded to ScienceDebate.org's Top 20 Presidential Science, Engineering, Technology, Health and Environmental Questions. Governor Gary Johnson provided late responses which the group has posted with those of Clinton, Trump, and Stein at <http://sciencedebate.org/20answers>. (Individual answers can be jumped to by appending "#1" through "#20" to the link.)

"It is a truism that to be fair and just, policy decisions should be based on evidence," said Shawn Otto, chair of the grassroots initiative and author of *The War on Science*. "This is a notion that America's founders held dear. The candidates' responses provide a window into the role evidence from science plays in their decision making." But, Otto said, the responses also beg further questions. "Now we need journalists and the public to press these candidates for more specifics. How reasonable are their proposals, given the known evidence? What relative roles do ideology and evidence seem to play in their thinking? These are important considerations in electing an executive who will have the power to set policy, guide and enforce regulations, influence research investments, sign treaties, inspire students, encourage innovation, approve laws, manage immigration, and commit soldiers to

Hazarding a guess as to how most readers of this newsletter will vote in November—with skeptical thinking, research, and civic duty—please allow me to recommend to you some objective resources that I use and trust.

1. [Vote Smart](#) — Picture this: thousands of citizens (conservative and liberal alike) working together, spending endless hours researching the backgrounds and records of thousands of political candidates and elected officials to discover their voting records, campaign contributions, public statements, biographical data (including their work history) and evaluations of them generated by over 400 national and 1300 state special interest groups. Every election these volunteers test each candidate's willingness to provide citizens with their positions on the issues they will most likely face if elected through the Political Courage Test.
2. [PolitiFact](#) — Find out which politicians and pundits are telling the truth, which ones are stretching it, and which ones are making statements we rate Pants on Fire.
3. [FactCheck](#) — *"a nonpartisan, nonprofit consumer advocate for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception in U.S. politics."*
4. [Vote411](#) — Vote 411 is a project by the league of women voters and aims to educate both men and women about the how and where to vote. You can find out information about registering to vote (deadline is typically a month before elections) and general voter information in every state. This is a good place to check out if you are new to voting and are looking for general guidance on the voting process and not the issues.
5. [VoteEasy](#) — Make voting easier—To find your best match, simply click on the tab of each subject that you are interested in and answer the questions. Be sure to appropriately rank the importance of each issue to you. As you answer the questions, VoteEasy will cumulatively compare your answers to those of the various candidates and rank the candidates with the most similar positions closest to you, while those who differ the most appear furthest away. To see the exact positions of a particular candidate, simply click on their picture to pull up the candidate's profile and you can see what we have determined would likely be their answer to each question based on their past speeches, comments, and votes.

With those tools, you should be well able to make a stress free decision on which politicians to vote for, and if they win, harass to promote your interests!

Best wishes, Rick O'Keefe, Ed.

I call it my "4-Out-of-5 Rule": If one makes a new observation or is presented with a concept claimed to be true, or one has a hypothesis, then carry out experiments to validate (or otherwise) the claim or hypothesis. If 4 tests out of 5 fit, the claim or hypothesis is almost certainly true and one has a "true" theory, indeed a law or a fact. ~ Sir Harry Kroto, Nobel Laureate

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FBI Finally Releases Tesla Documents on Death Ray, Ball Lightning, and More

By [Claire Bernish](#) September 23, 2016

At long last, the FBI has released its [document cache](#) of files containing information on [Nikola Tesla](#), including his inventions like [death ray](#) and ball lightning, as well as how the government obtained his notes and memos following his death.

Tesla, an inventor and innovator considered at least decades ahead of his time, [predicted](#) and helped develop an early prototype of a smartphone, among many other things.

Tesla's experiments and [inventions](#), and incredibly forward-thinking vision, made him the target of FBI and government surveillance. Upon his death in the midst of World War II — which had been documented January 7, 1943, though the new cache of documents suggests he didn't pass away until the following day — the FBI rushed to seize trunk loads of his work in order to prevent anything falling into the hands of Axis forces.

But considering his inventions centered around electricity and involved the amplification of power, the United States government likely had [motivations](#) it never put to paper.

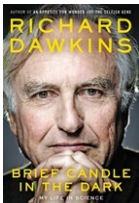
According to the newly-released information, the FBI even plotted to arrest a family member Tesla despised — who was believed to be friendly to the enemy — to prevent him using the familial bond to make a legal claim for the work.

Despite Nikola Tesla's astonishing achievements, he has been all-but omitted from government education.

A smattering of individuals have been post-mortem students of Tesla, both furthering and fleshing out his experiments. One such inventor, Jim Murray, has studied the unparalleled scientist for over five decades — and the two have an FBI following in common.

After years of experimentation and projects, Jim contributed greatly to the development of [SERPS \(Switched Energy Resonance Power Supply\) device](#). As The Free Thought Project, which has interviewed Jim on multiple occasions, previously described SERPS:

"This highly specialized electronic circuit has the ability to "Magnify" the effective power applied to it by nearly 50 times. When Jim coupled his device with his friend Paul Babcock's patented ultra fast 5 nanosecond switching technology, they achieved a 4790% increase in electrical power compared to the input. This type of performance, if commercialized, would cause the largest electric utility companies to shake in their boots."



Richard Dawkins' NEW book!
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Ever wonder what Florida Freethought groups are doing?



Now you can easily know. Atheists of Florida have a new freethought Calendar:

<http://atheistsoffloridainc.org/calendar/>

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



We welcome active members to the board. Donations are also much needed. The [Greater Tampa Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union](#) is chartered for the local ACLU membership of Greater Tampa including the Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Polk and Sumter Counties of Florida. Pinellas County ACLU members have a separately chartered chapter. The southern Greater Tampa Bay counties are chartered to the Sarasota Chapter of the ACLU of Florida.

For more information, e-mail us at ACLUFL_Tampa@yahoo.com



Or write us at P.O. Box 18245
Tampa, FL 33679-8245

or c/o the ACLU of Florida
4500 Biscayne Blvd, Suite 340
Miami, FL 33137-3227.

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Founded in 1988 by [Gary P. Posner, M.D.](#), Tampa Bay Skeptics is a nonprofit educational and scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of paranormal and fringe-science claims, and the dissemination of factual information about such claims. [Read More!](#)

AWASH IN NONSENSE

By Terry Smiljanich, Esq, Co-founder & Director, Tampa Bay Skeptics

Welcome to the digital world and social media. You can now find whatever fact you're looking for, the perfect fact to back up whatever argument you are trying to make. Oh, you want the facts to comport to actual truth? Sorry. Can't help you there.

Take Facebook, for example. On Facebook, you can "learn" that Hillary Clinton has AIDS, Donald Trump is a Russian spy, Barack Obama is a Muslim, alien craft were spotted over Melbourne last week, 9/11 was an inside job, the moon landings were faked by Stanley Kubrick, FDR knew Pearl Harbor was going to be attacked, JFK was assassinated by a Cuban hit squad assisted by the Mob, the supposed Sandy Hook massacre of young children was staged to usher in abolishment of the 2nd Amendment, Justice Samuel Alito was murdered in his sleep, the Founding Fathers were deeply religious and wanted to establish a Christian nation, Tripartite Commission globalists secretly rule the world, the federal government is about to take over the State of Texas and impose sharia law, commercial airlines are secretly spraying our atmosphere with brainwashing chemicals, and global warming is a hoax perpetrated by scientists trying to protect their research grants.

You don't believe any of these "facts"? Go ahead and Google the subjects and take your pick of articles to back up your argument. Your cup will runneth over.

The age of information has inexorably resulted in a tsunami of irrational nonsense. Skepticism itself has taken on an irrational life of its own. Organizations like the Committee for Scientific Inquiry strive to promote critical thinking about extraordinary claims, such as UFO's and psychic phenomena, but such endeavors are seemingly drowned out by examples of extreme skepticism about anything having to do with the government or mainstream science.

Stephen Colbert has coined a phrase, "truthiness." If something sort of sounds true, and supports your preexisting beliefs, that is good enough for it to be "truthy." Certain current major party candidates love to tell stories that possess truthiness.

After over 28 years of existence, the Tampa Bay Skeptics (TBS) has not put a dent into the prevalence of pseudoscientific nonsense. A meeting of TBS in its heyday was lucky to generate 10 visitors. If instead we had advertised the presence of a psychic healer who could diagnose and cure your ailments with his Wonder Dowsing Rod, I'm sure we would have had a packed auditorium.

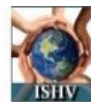
What to do? Give up? Hardly. If nothing else, it is good to know there is a hardcore group of people who, although perhaps not smarter than anyone else, are at least saner in their approach to questions about the world.



Membership in TBS

We encourage those who wish to help further the cause of skepticism to join TBS! Suggesting speakers, attending our activities ... all help. For more information and to RSVP please see our [Meetup site](#).

"A person who leaves the traditional church in revolt does not want a warmed over dish of platitudes as a weak substitute, as he has been often served by organised humanism in the United States. If one reads what many professional humanists write about, one often finds the same old clichés and slogans. Humanism should be concerned with moral choice and social change, and not just theorize about them." ~ Paul Kurtz



The Achievements of Paul Kurtz

By Bill Cooke, Part Two

Kurtz's organizations

Dewey and Hook lived their public lives through various organizations and committees. Kurtz carried this tradition on but with the important addition of having a real facility in building sustainable organizations, a rare ability among philosophers. The important caveat to this is that, in the end, the organizations needed to be his creations. He worked for many years in the AHA and the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), among others. But in the end Kurtz was at his best when he could fashion an organization in his own image. The first of the organizations he founded (or co-founded) was CSICOP, the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (now known as the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry) which was launched in 1976. This was followed by the Council for Secular Humanism (1980); International Academy of Humanism (1983); Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion (1983); Secular Organizations for Sobriety (1988); African-Americans for Humanism (1989); Center for Inquiry (1991); Society of Humanist Philosophers (1997); the Commission for Scientific Medicine and Mental Health (2003); and the Institute for Science and Human Values (ISHV) in 2010.

Until his departure in 2010 and the formation of the ISHV, Kurtz's flagship was the Center for Inquiry (CFI), the umbrella for all the other organizations. The stated goal of the CFI is "to promote and defend science, reason, and free inquiry in all aspects of human endeavor." He wanted the CFI to be the premier humanist think-tank for the world, combining skeptical inquiry into paranormal phenomena, undertaken by CSI, and articulation of the humanist outlook by the Council of Secular Humanism, as well as the work of the smaller organizations. It sees its purpose as contributing to the public understanding of science and reason, with particular reference to their applications to human conduct, ethics and society. The principal CFI is located in Amherst, New York, adjacent to the State University of New York at Buffalo and is known as the Center for Inquiry–Transnational.

A major problem for many organizations formed by one dynamic individual is to manage the succession to the next generation of leaders who can carry on the work. Kurtz is not alone among such people not to have excelled in this respect. After a messy departure from the CFI in 2010, he went on to found the ISHV. Both organizations continue to give life to Kurtz's vision to this day.

Kurtz's other main creation has been Prometheus Books, which he began in 1969. Earlier freethought leaders had established publishing operations, but with the exception of Watts & Co. in Britain, none lasted for long. Kurtz understood, where his predecessors did not, that a publishing house could not survive if it confined all its publishing activity to freethought alone. Certainly, humanism around the world would be immeasurably poorer had Prometheus not been around.

The extent of this achievement is remarkable. Few other significant humanists have made such significant and lasting contributions in this way. The only two who invite comparison would be Charles Albert Watts and the Venerable Master Xingyun. Watts founded Watts & Co. publishers, the Rationalist Press Association, and its journal, now called the New Humanist in Britain. And Xingyun is the founder of the worldwide Buddhist organization Foguangshan, which teaches what it calls Humanistic Buddhism.

Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Astrophysicist, Humanist, Director of the Hayden Planetarium, star of the new version of Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* series is coming to TAMPA.



Thursday, November 17, 7:30 PM

At the Straz Center–Morsani Hall
 1010 N Macinnes Pl, Tampa 33602 [MAP](#)
 Click [here](#) for more information.



In West Central Florida, and worldwide, [The Center for Inquiry](#) is your advocate for science, reason, and secular values.

Guided by scientific skepticism and secular humanism, CFI fights for free expression around the world, for public policies based on science and evidence, and an end to the privileging of religion. Through its global activism, thriving local communities, and prestigious programs and publications, the Center for Inquiry challenges the extraordinary claims of religion, pseudoscience, and the paranormal by promoting critical thinking and free inquiry.

Learn much more about CFI with our [2015 Progress Report: In Dark Times, Keeping the Flame of Reason Alight](#).

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Our local [Meetup](#) makes it easy to view and RSVP our activities and some affiliated events. The value to us of your joining our Meetup is that we do need to know how many folks expect to attend an activity. Some programs are limited in seating; some require ordering books, etc.; some are open only to paid-up CFI members; and some require a prepayment.



Yes, you must join the Meetup to get the benefits. It is free, so *please don't dawdle.*



Rick O'keefe, Leader

[University of South Florida Humanities Institute](#)



The Fall 2016 [lineup of speakers](#) is listed, and there is sure to be at least one to interest you.

Check out the free Fall 2016 newsletter here.
http://bit.ly/2bO9rPS_FallNewsI_USFHI

In October:

RACHEL HAYWOOD FERREIRA: Collecting Latin American Science Fiction Followed by a reception and book signing.

FREDRIK LOGEVALL: Do Leaders Make History? Reflections on the American Presidency Followed by a reception and book signing Sept. 28 Wed. 6pm CWY 206.

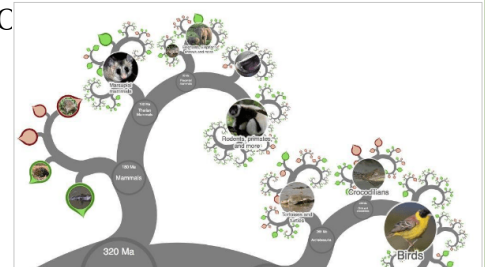
HUMANITIES & HOPS: Faculty Research. Refreshments will be served



[Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science](#)

The complete tree of life on a single page

Charity 'OneZoom' unveils a beautiful and comprehensive guide to the evolution of life on earth, encompassing almost two million species. The [freely available online](#) resource aims to do for the living world what Google Earth has done for the physical world. All known complex life can now be found on a single web page, [OneZoom.org](#), whose release has been timed to mark the charity's first anniversary. The OneZoom tree of life incorporates the latest studies on the relationships between living things, and their conservation statuses. The fractal display encompasses aardvarks to amoebas, the [nervous shark to the nutty snailfish](#), and zebras (all 3 species) to the ZZ plant. In fact, there are so many species on the C printed, the paper would span our entire solar system... at least sixty times over.



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – October ????, 2016 Calendar



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/>



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
10-06, 12 & 25 Numerous events, various venues—see the Website.	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary!
10-01, Saturday, 2 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists
10-02 & 28	TAMPA BAY AREA– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN
10-06 & 13	SOUTH TAMPA– Atheists of Florida , Inc.	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup
10-09 & ... Various times	CLEARWATER & S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup
10-09, Sunday, 2 PM 2 nd Sundays	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Social, with Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP : http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
10-14, Friday, 7 PM at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home
10-15, Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists
10-16, Sunday, 12:30 PM Most 3 rd Sundays	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists
10-17, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers
10-22, Saturday, 10:30 AM; <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. RSVP is required. http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
10-24, Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required. Seating is limited to 25! For CFI & TBS paid members. http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup
10-01, 05, 09, 17 ... Various times/venues	TAMPA – Center for Inquiry	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup



2017 Freethought Cruise with Hemant Mehta

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

March 16-20, 2017