

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 4 April 2013 Jim Peterson, Editor

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Compassionate Humanists?

When most people think of humanists, they think: Intellectual? Atheist? Godless? Anti-religion? Anti-establishment? Self-centered? Mean spirited? ...and on ad-infinity. The fact is that sometimes they are quite right. However, the humanists I know, besides being very independent thinkers, are also some of the most kind, caring, altruistic and considerate people I have ever met. Where is the disconnect? I believe that the disconnect is only a matter of perception. Many, if not all of us, have had a tendency to live mostly in our heads and pursue our own definitions of truth, sometimes courageously and publicly, but most of the time anonymously or in our small group of humanist acquaintances. However, we are also individuals who believe that we must act in this world, not in some future "world to come". The fact remains that, in general, we are not understood, or even worse, misunderstood. We need to let the world know that we have much more in common with all of them that what separates us from them; after all, we are sharing the same planet and the same environment. It is in this light that I am suggesting a few ideas that would enhance our public perception without compromising our principles.

We become signatories on religious historian, Karen Armstrong's "Charter for Compassion", which came about as a result of a Ted Talk presented by Armstrong, and resulted in her being presented with the "Ted" award, which enabled her to initiate the Charter. While, at first it was conceived as a means to get religions to find a "common denominator" for agreement, now whole cities have become signatories and I don't think that there is anything in the Charter that we, as humanists, couldn't endorse. You can find more about the organization and the full Charter at The Charter for Compassion's web site: charterforcompassion.org. She also has written a book called "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life".

Our food bank donations are very worthwhile, if not publicly known. However, I believe that we should become publicly involved, as humanists, in Tampa Bay social justice organizations. A couple of examples where we might start are FAST (Faith and Action for Strength Together) in Pinellas County and HOPE (Hillsborough

Organization for Progress and Equality) in Hillsborough County. Both organizations have been very effective in influencing public policy in areas of job creation, literacy, healthcare and affordable housing.

I don't think that we would have to look very far to find other organizations where we could become effective. I believe that it is time to stop relinquishing matters of injustice and caring to faith communities, after all, as humanists, we are committed to improving the earth and its inhabitants here and now. That is our only reward. We are compassionate, not because we fear the "loss of heaven or the pains of hell", but because it is the right thing to do.

Bruce Gotts

Ω



Author, Luis Granados speaks of the price of courage at a recent Tampa Humanist Assoc. meeting.

Bruce Gott's call for more social responsibility is addressed to the Humanist Society, but its important message applies with equal urgency to all freethought organizations.

As our movement grows stronger each day, it is important to emphasize our social consciousness, and the imperative it creates to make ourselves more involved in the well being of the entire community. If you have thoughts or ideas on this question, please send a letter or essay to the [News](#).



Click to connect!

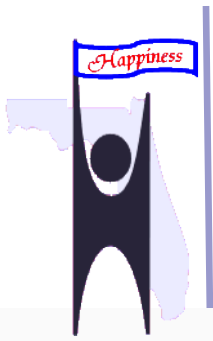
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON – FEBRUARY, 2013 CALENDAR

This is produced from preliminary information. Check to insure the event is being held, when and where

We are not liable for errors or omissions. Compiled by *Rick O'Keefe*, & *Jim Peterson*.

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

04-01 Monday, 6:30 PM		Humanists of Sarasota Bay http://sarasota.humanists.net/	See our website for more information on the many activities scheduled throughout the month.	"Drones" w/ Skip Parish at the Roskamp Center 1226 N. Tamiami Trail Sarasota. Lecture series.
04-06, Saturday, 2 PM		CLEARWATER– The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Countryside Library 2741 S.R 580 Clearwater, FL MAP	Program: Humanism gone to the Dogs with Tampa Museum of Art curator, Seth Pevnick
Monthly		Humanist Families of Tampa	Orlando	For more information, see our Facebook page
04, Thursday, 7 PM		S. PINELLAS– Pinellas County Skeptics	To be determined. See the website .	Monthly skeptical dinner
04-14, Sunday, 7 PM		BRANDON– Joint CFI & Brandon Atheists	See Meetup for the venue.	RSVP to Kathryn before noon of the Friday, preceding the social. http://www.meetup.com/cfi-tampa-bay
04-14, Sunday, 1:00 PM		TAMPA– Atheists of Florida–Tampa Chapter Web: http://atheistsoffloridainc.org	Atheists of Florida Office 5103 South Westshore Blvd Tampa, FL (just four blocks south of Gandy Blvd., west side.)	Details & RSVP at our Meetup site: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/ Blog: http://aofla.wordpress.com
04-20 , Saturday, 11:00 AM		TAMPA– Tampa Humanist Association	Jimmie B. Keele Library 2902 W. Bearss Ave Tampa, FL MAP	Program: Evolve with Gin Kohl . See page 7 . http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
04, 1:00 PM		New Tampa Film Event Tampa Bay Humanist Film freaks	Jimmie B. Keele Library 2902 W. Bearss Ave Tampa, FL MAP	See for details: "Las Malas Intenciones" Sorry! Cancelled for now. Sorry!
04-15, Monday, 6:30 PM		CARROLLWOOD– Tampa Bay Thinkers Discussion Group	Carrollwood Cultural Center 4537 Lowell Rd, Carrollwood, FL 33618 MAP	"Philosophy and the Brutes" RSVP at Web site .
04, Thursday, 7 PM		N. PINELLAS– Pinellas County Skeptics	For details & to RSVP, see the website .	Monthly skeptical dinner
Every 2 weeks in North Tampa		Café Philo	Check website for current times & locations	Philosophical discussion group in Tampa
04, 3 PM		BRANDON– CFI Sceptic/Humanist Mixer	See the Meetup for details & the RSVP (required).	Click to RSVP
04-21 Sunday, 12:30 PM		CLEARWATER– UU Humanists	Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Clearwater 2470 Nursery Road Clearwater, FL 33764 MAP	http://www.uuclearwater.org/newindex.htm
04-22, Thursday, 7:00 PM,		North Pinellas CFI Skeptics/ Humanists Social	See the Meetup for details & the RSVP (required) before noon of the Sunday preceding the social..	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 12!</i> Click here before noon, xxx (Sunday). Click HERE .
04-TBA		NW Hillsborough / West Chase CFI Share Readers Book Discussion	Upper Tampa Bay Regional Library 11211 Countryway Blvvd. Tampa, FL 33626 MAP	A group of us like minded book lovers will gather monthly to discuss we've all read. RSV & details: www.meetup.com/cfi-tampa-
03-30 Saturday 11 AM		Tampa Bay Skeptics Quarterly meeting	Jan Platt Regional Library on 3910 South Manhattan Ave, Tampa FL	Details: See page 13!



The Humanist Society³ of the Suncoast News

A Socratic society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is well worth living.
Associate organization of the Humanists of Florida, the AHA, COR, and CSH. Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

Volume 21 No. 4 April, 2013

Humanism goes to the Dogs

Some of our best Friends; Good & Bad!

Our experience of the world can often lead to a fine veneer of cynicism toward the pillars of our erstwhile civilization. Famous for his laudatory mention by Alexander the Great, the surly, lantern-toting Diogenes of Sinope was called Kynos -- Greek for dog -- for his lifestyle and contrariness. It was from this word for dog that we get the word Cynicism. Diogenes of Sinope is also known for his cosmopolitanism, literally. When asked where he was from he said he was a citizen of the kosmos (world). Perhaps it is time to explore the relationship between our precursors and our canine companions in this consideration by **Seth D. Pevnick**, Ph.D. Chief Curator/Richard E. Perry Curator of Greek and Roman Art at the Tampa Museum of Art.



This lecture begins with an introduction to the three main types of dogs distinguishable in ancient Greek and Roman art—lap dogs, hunting dogs, and guard dogs, respectively. We will then look in closer detail at some especially interesting examples of each of these types, particularly in non-mythological scenes painted on Greek black-figure and red-figure pottery of the 6th and 5th centuries BC. As with the dogs described by ancient authors (and often as with our own dogs today), we shall see a wide range of canine behavior, from the delightful to the disgusting. In addition to the unequivocally good dogs that quite clearly do their masters' bidding, and the unequivocally bad ones that bite, steal, and otherwise make mischief, we find a few extraordinary dogs that defy easy classification.



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

An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. There is increasing hunger here in our community. Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food or checks for:

Tampa Bay Harvest

Latest books from the Matt Cooper Humanist Library.

Simply 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!

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 Niiose |
| 20. God on Trial | Peter Irons |
| 21. Natural Experiments of History | Diamond-Robinson |
| 22. The Missionary Position | Christopher Hitchens |
| 23. Life Inc. | Douglas Rushkoff |
| 24. A brief History of Time | Stephen Hawkins |
| 25. Breaking the Spell | Daniel Dennett |
| 26. The Philosophy of Humanism | Corliss Lamont |
| 27. The Quotable Atheist | Jack Huberman |
| 28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God. | G. Harrison |
| 29. Mathematics and Politics | Alan Taylor |
| 30. Stealing Elections | John Fund |
| 31. The God Virus | Darrel Ray |
| 32. What Every American Should Know About Rest of World. | Rossi |
| 33. Imagine There's no Heaven | Editors of Free Inquiry |
| 34. Hidden Order | David Friedman |
| 35. What the Dog Saw | Malcom Gladwell |
| 36. Sway | Ori, Rom Brafman |
| 37. The Better Angels of our Nature | Steven Pinker |
| 38. Letter to a Young Contrarian | Christopher Hitchens |
| 39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded | Thomas Friedman |
| 40. Gaming the Vote | William Poundstone |
| 41. Subversion Fable | Alexa KcKearing |
| 42. Evolution and the Big Question | David Stamos |
| 43. Why People Believe Weird Things | Michael Shermer |
| 44. The World is Curved | David Snick |
| 45. The Snow Ball | Warren Buffett |
| 46. The Moral Landscape | Sam Harris |
| 47. How We Believe | Michael Shermer |
| 48. Full House | Steven Jay Gould |
| 49. The Origins of Political Order | Francis Fukuyama |

Please join us for
this free and open
discussion.

On **Saturday**,
April 6th.
at 2 PM:

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

Following our
meeting, many of us
will dine and argue
together at the
Greek City Cafe,

Elections for the Humanist Society Board

will be held at the meeting on the 6th.

If you have been a member for a year, and paid your dues, you are eligible to run.

If you have entertained a dream about making a difference, even a small one, in the life of our species, here is an opportunity. The society needs members and leaders who are willing to reach for more than they can grasp. It needs you!



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

Humanist Society monthly social dinner,

The Moveable Feast for April will be:

Our Annual Spring Picnic !

on Sunday April 21st at 2:30PM until about 7:00PM. We will have as our main course a complete chicken dinner with potato salad, beans, and slaw all FREE to all **paid up** members. For guests and unpaid members there will be a nominal \$8 charge [an incentive to pay your dues if you haven't already?] We encourage attendees to bring a dessert or appetizer if willing [not required] and all their choice of drinks.

Cups and utensils will be included with dinner. Jackie's clubhouse is located at the Village Lake Condominiums at **10691 Roosevelt Blvd** about one block east of 9th St [ML King] on the northeast side of Roosevelt in north St. Pete. Look for a big flag at the entrance to the clubhouse. **Map!** The clubhouse is straight in after you enter. It is very important that everyone parks in the guest spots only near the clubhouse, and not in resident's parking.

Since the chicken dinners must be ordered by Saturday night, April 20th - **Reservations are a must** by midday April 20th! This picnic should be a lot of fun, so we hope to see you all there. Call Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email reservation at kpaul@tampabay.rr.com.

Laugh Lines More Araprosdokians

They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be, but then, it never was.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Where there's a will, there are relatives.

Finally:

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but its getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

Thanks to: Connie Purdum 4/13

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

Steve Brown, VP

Terry Eckstien

Lois Fries, Secretary

Jon Green

Jim Peterson, President

Frank Prah

Marios Psomas, treasurer

Emeritus members: Anita Garcia,

Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore, Mark

Winterbottom, Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob

Collette, Glenn Paul, Don Acenbrach

Dec., Jackie Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike

Hubbard, Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

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

Jordan Williams, Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com



GOOD WITHOUT A GOD

The **Kochhar Humanist Education Center** hopes to impact the level of community activism among chapters and affiliates of the American Humanist Association by providing case studies and citizen action guides; they bring to light issues on minority religions and ethnicities that humanist chapter members may not have considered before. It will also expand existing efforts like Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism and utilize other resources in working to eliminate the pernicious effects of ignorance and discrimination. Through position papers it will elucidate humanist thinking on important issues and help educate the larger public on the importance of a broader rational view of knowledge.

Tampa Humanist Association

Saturday, **April 16th**, 2013 at
11.00 am Jimmie B. Keele Library,
2902 W. Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL.
Look for the Tampa Humanist Assoc. sign.

[MAP](#)



Evolving a Humanist Ethic With Virginia Kohl, Ph.D



Gin is a member of the Tampa Humanists Association board, a former executive director of the **Humanists of Florida Association (HFA)**, and was author of the educational program of **Carl Sagan Academy** in east Tampa – the first Humanist charter school in the country.

She served on the HFA board in 2002, when that year's conference, "Planting seeds for a more Humanistic world" included USF educational historian Sherman Dorn's presentation on think tanks, which foreshadowed the creation of the Evolution Institute: At the recommendation of Ambassador to Nepal Carl Koon, then HFA President Jerry Lieberman contacted evolutionary biologist David Sloan Wilson in 2007, and within a year's time, the **Evolution Institute (EI)** was created as a scientific think tank.

Dr. Virginia Kohl

To date, EI has addressed social challenges from understanding early childhood learning and risky adolescent behavior to the "rational actor" model in behavioral economics, failed nation states, and ranking life quality.

Gin will primarily address quality of life (QOL), as introduced at the 2011 Memphis workshop and through the anticipated October 2013 conference in Oslo, Norway. She will contrast the lives of people in Memphis with those in Oslo, Norway, by utilizing various indices of Quality of Life

She will cite such instances where Norway is unique in meeting human needs. Whether or not the practices and policies of Norway can be applied and adopted to other nations is subject to reasonable and legitimate debate. What is not in contention is the track record of Norway in achieving universal recognition for its highest ranking in QOL by highly reputable sources.

Such instruments as The United Nations Human Development Index (UNHDI) has established a top-ranking for Norway when life quality issues are measured. Among the many parameters studied, the role of innovation was particularly intriguing. For some reason, the development of new industries that are less closely linked to natural resources, in spite of considerable support from public policy, has been much less successful in Norway." This suggests that "high tech" does not always lead development, a fact that ambitious underdeveloped countries will find to be of value. This has important implications for the future of our world and the progress of humanity.



A Humanist Helping Hand

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

- ◆ Terri Eckstien (813) 891-9399
- ◆ Jerry Moore (727) 455-4973
- ◆ Nan Owens (727) 424-2558
- ◆ Patricia Walters (813) 988-5977



~ **Time to Renew** ~ ⁵

*The Humanist Society
of the Suncoast.*

Annual Dues

_ Trial –3 month– free news

_ **Regular -\$25.**

_ Reg. Couple -\$30.

_ **Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin)**

_ Life -\$200.

_ Life Couple -\$250.

_ Associate -\$10.

_ **Contribution for growth**

New!



*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 to:

**Glenn Paul, Asst. Treasurer
Humanist Society of the Suncoast
2507 First St. #E
Indian Rocks Beach
33785-3010**

Humanist Quotes

True freedom is the capacity for acting according to one's true character, to be altogether one's self, to be self-determined and not subject to outside coercion.

Corliss Lamont,
1902–1995, philosopher



Atheists of Florida



Chair, Tracy Thomas
President, Ed Golly
Vice President, Frank Prahl
Treasurer, Nan Owens

AoF outreach programs can be found at our [Meetup](#) site. Current newsletters are available by writing to: Athaifle@aol.com.

JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#).

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 14th at 5103 S Westshore Blvd. Tampa, and we will be doing our first webcast (you can be a participant or cheer people on from the sidelines. Care will be taken to make sure those that don't want to appear on screen are not seen.)

Our first meeting of every quarter is now going to be a potluck, the address information is available only to members of our [Meetup](#) since it is a private home.

Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts (audio & video) in the offing very soon. Let us know if you wish to participate. We are a resource for those with questions and doubts about the standard religious narrative of life. At the same time, we bring a human centered ethic to bear in serving our fellow human beings as they struggle to overcome the delusional psychology of years of religious conditioning.

We may have only one issue, but it is undoubtedly the most important one for the full emergence of the individual person.

As an institution committed to bring the enormously prolific benefits of the atheist proposition to ever larger numbers of our citizens, we desire to enable an enlightened majority of truly free people to turn their intelligence toward the real problems we all must face.

Find out more about end of life issues. Everyone has to face this final question. But there are choices not provided by conventional institutions. For more information see: <http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm>



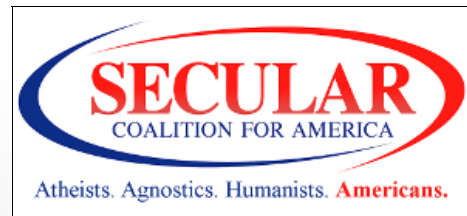
Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better

6

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



National Secular Movement Update
Newsletter and Call
Call Every Thursday from 12PM - 12:30PM (ET)
Phone Number: 559-726-1300 Code: 199568

<http://secular.org/>



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

Clearwater UU Humanists

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

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

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



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will have its monthly meeting on Sunday, April 21, 12:30 at the Octagon, at the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater campus, located at 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater. The speaker will be **Ed Ericson**, a co-founder of the Ethical Culture Society. He will be speaking on: **Separating Reality from Myth in early Christianity**. This should be a very interesting speaker and topic.



**Florida
Now**

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

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

The Florida National Organization for Women (NOW) is in strong opposition to the Personhood Amendment ballot initiative for which the organization Personhood Florida is currently collecting signatures, according to Florida NOW president Donna Slutiak. "This amendment is ridiculous and an insult to women," Slutiak said. "The issue of Personhood would have very far reaching results, and would do more than criminalize abortion; it would also make birth control pills and the IUD illegal in the state of Florida. The amendment states that human life begins at the time when an egg is fertilized, which will also impact in-vitro-fertilization clinics. How would you like your mother's fertilized eggs that are sitting in a clinic freezer to have inheritance rights?"

Do you want to have to go underground to get your birth control pills?" Florida NOW expects all intelligent people to pledge not to sign this initiative, and to vote against it, if by some fluke it does get on the ballot. Personhood is bad for womanhood."

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU supporter,

The feds know exactly what you bought last night—or they could very soon, thanks to a proposed law that encourages companies to share data with government agencies like the CIA or NSA for cybersecurity purposes.

So get ready for powerful people in secret places to access your personal details on anything from the websites you browsed last night to that present you bought two years ago.

But, luckily, there's a way to stop CISA (the **Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act**) dead in its tracks —by ensuring that President Obama would veto the bill if it ever got to his desk.

CISA was recently reintroduced in the House, but a veto threat would kill the bill before it gets traction, and send a powerful message to Congress that any legislation that indiscriminately violates online privacy is dead in the water.

Just last year, thousands joined together in opposition to CISA, and WON. Obama threatened to veto the bill last year, but in order to protect privacy online, we have to do it again.

Urge President Obama to tell Congress now that he'll veto CISA if it lands on his desk.

CISA would give companies unprecedented power to obtain your information, including from private communications, and hand it over to the government without a warrant if they believe it is relevant to cybersecurity. But it also allows the use of your personal data for reasons completely unrelated to cybersecurity, even granting immunity to companies who share your data with other companies.

CISA supporters are using the specter of cybersecurity threats to execute a naked power grab for companies and the government, but we're not actually safer if it comes at the expense of our fundamental rights.

With so many pressing fights coming up, Congress won't waste time pushing a bill they know Obama will veto. We stopped this bill before, and with tens of thousands of us coming together, we can do it again.



Anthony D. Romero

ACLU National

Life Ring Secular Recovery group meets every Monday evening at 8-p.m., at Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church at 2817 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater. The meeting takes place in a modular building at the back of the parking lot. This is a recovery, support group for alcoholics and drug addicts who do not believe in, or feel comfortable with the idea of a higher power as strongly encouraged in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have any questions, feel free to call 727-772-3360.

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future



Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

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

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

Calendar:
Rick O'Keefe

Newsletter:
Jim Peterson

Web site:
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

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

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

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

Thus substantive and exciting new activities will be offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before. We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason and its director, Fred Edwards. You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God. Millions are!"

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

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

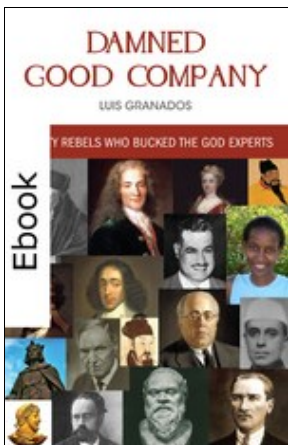
TBPPC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

A Great President

President Obama should use his executive powers to arrest or reverse the most dangerous, climate-related practices. Most of these involve the extraction, transport, and burning of coal and other hydrocarbon fuels. Obama should, for example, shut down existing coal-fired power plants and make new ones impossible to permit; strictly regulate or ban coal exports; ban the importation or sale of liquid fuels from tar sands and coal liquefaction; accelerate the federal drive to electrify our vehicle fleet, and follow the rest of the industrialized world (even China!) in building a nationwide grid of high-speed electric trains. It is not enough to complain that Congress won't act. The president can and must do what has to be done. Obama should deploy the U.S. military in the climate cause. No part of the federal government is more energy intensive, or energy aware than the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Rabid interest in ultra efficient, distributed, and renewable energy sources permeates all branches of the armed services. Every military facility should feature "living buildings," coated with solar panels and tied together in smart, hack-proof micro grids. The U.S. military has been the birthplace of many historic firsts, including racial integration and the GI Bill. Today, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency might be the best cutting-edge science organization in the nation. "Organizing for Action," Obama's new advocacy group, should unleash a massive grassroots climate brigade. If Obama brings the full strength of his bully pulpit to bear on the climate issue; marshals the independent power of the cabinet departments and agencies; inspires the nation's technical genius and entrepreneurial talent to rise to the challenge; and mobilizes the 80 percent of Americans who will support him on his quest to overcome the inertia and save the planet, he will join the tiny pantheon of great presidents, the ones who make us proud to be Americans.

Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more.

The Humanist Press

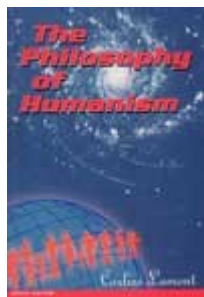


Damned Good Company By Luis Granados

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

The Philosophy of Humanism - Dr. Corliss Lamont

In a work that is a standard text and reference in the ongoing international discussion around secular humanism, Lamont offers an argument for a philosophy that advocates for happiness in this life rather than hope for an undefined afterlife. Paperback, 371 pages. \$16.95

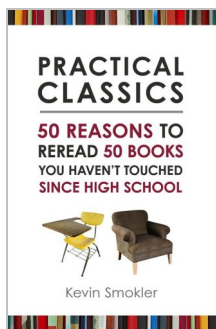


Pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

from:

Evolve Fish

<http://evolvefish.com/>



Prometheus Press

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

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

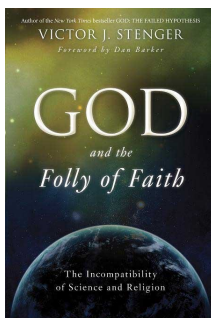
\$1800 Paperback 320 pages. [Order here:](#)

God and the Folly of Faith: The Incompatibility of Science and Religion

By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.

The story of the fight against superstition has been told before, but never like this. Victor Stenger confronts the battle between religious superstition and science with the eye of a trained physicist and the practicality of a superb teacher.

409 pages Paperback \$20.00 [Order here](#)



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

I am happy to announce the third season of the International Freethought Film Festival, and excited that I will be able to work face to face with individuals in the Orlando area to make it a success. This year we have added a screenwriting category, and the winning short script will be developed as our very first project to launch our production branch.

Freethought Film Festival Foundation



Promoting Reason Through Film

As thrilled as I am to be once again immersed in the planning of the fest, acquiring the motivation to actively move forward on the planning for season three of IFFF took me months of painful reflection on last years event. I wasn't certain that I could break through the paralysis brought on by the disappointment of the poor turnout back in August. All of my efforts are voluntary, and it was truly disheartening for me that so few seemed to care about our mission of promoting reason through film.

The combination of the tragic movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado that occurred just eight miles from the film fest venues a week prior to our kickoff; and what I felt was a let down by the secular movement in promoting IFFF 2012; were the primary reasons behind the low attendance. Each event and screening was executed as planned; and those who did attend had a great time and enjoyed the program of films and camaraderie. Freethought got some great press out of it as well! (Check out the links to the right.)

Unfortunately, ticket sales did not cover all of the venue costs, and we are still in arrears from last season. As disconcerting as this is for me, my efforts go on. I know that the International Freethought Film Festival is worthy of support; and I know that there are freethinkers who care. I am passionate about our mission of promoting reason through film, and feel strongly that it contributes to the necessary dialogue that counters irrational thought and superstitious beliefs, and the evils that can result from them.

I am still alive and kicking, but I can't do this alone. FFFF needs help from individuals who want to ensure that the International Freethought Festival grows. We are a nonprofit that is 100% independent--which means we receive zero funding from other organizations. As such, our programming is not subject to the influence thereof.

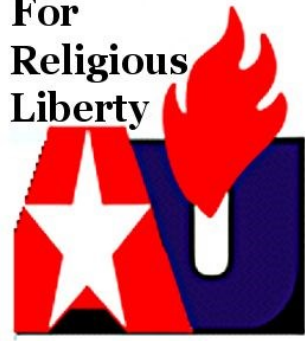
If you can afford to make a even the smallest donation to FFFF, please show your support by stopping by www.freethoughtfilmfest.org and contributing.

Best in Reason...*Andrea Steele*



A Tradition of Advocacy

**For
Religious
Liberty**



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

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



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

**The Military Association of
Atheists and Freethinkers**



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

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

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris

(christbrown@yahoo.com)

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

Jennifer is author of several books including; *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP
See much more at: www.Jen-Hancock.com

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 at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa/>

Today's topic is:

Ethics Requires Courage

A big part of being a Humanist is being committed to being an ethical person. The question is, why is being good so hard? Why do we keep having to remind ourselves to be ethical?

I don't know what the answer to that question is, but I do know that it not only feels good to remind myself of the need to be ethical, but making a habit of being good helps me feel better about myself and serves as a reminder to myself to act in accordance with my values when I am stressed out or otherwise not at my best.

Here are three recent essays I've written on this topic:

Ethics requires courage: <http://humanisthappiness.blogspot.com/2013/02/ethics-requires-courage.html>

The habit of being good: <http://humanisthappiness.blogspot.com/2013/01/the-habit-of-being-good.html>

How to recover from losing your cool: <http://humanisthappiness.blogspot.com/2013/02/how-to-recover-from-losing-your-cool.html>

- Jennifer Hancock

Transforming Lives Through Humanism

Other Useful Information. Here are two more related essays on this same topic from a Humanist perspective:

Troy Jollimore on [Secular Ethics](#) And Why do we need higher ideals if we can never reach them from the Being Human [blog](#) . And here is another article you might find interesting: On the impact [Humanist marriages are having in Scotland](#).

Jennifer Hancock

HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE

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

YOU can give a child a much-needed hour of personal attention that will encourage reading and just might help them to move forward while improving their self-esteem.

In two 1-hour sessions, I have encountered children, some of whom have already had to repeat kindergarten, that barely recognize or are able to say the alphabet or the sound of the letter. This is half way through the school year. In two 1-hour sessions, 3 third-grade girls are unable to break down or sound out a word. They cannot grasp the concept of context since they are still struggling with the words.

Teachers struggle with discipline issues and the pressure of preparing the children for FCAT testing. With patience and intensive learning, you can help these children grow into their potential.

In Hillsborough County, contact:

Debra L. Blossom

Program Manager

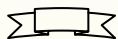
Training and Volunteer Management

debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us

813.872-5254

Gale Barron

gfbshb@aol.com



Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

Rick O'Keefe, CFI certified,

Virginia Kohl-Lieberman, AHA certified



Institute for Science and Human Values

Inspired by Empathy, Creativity and guided by Reason

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

Diverse Set of Thinkers to Ponder Ethics, Science, Secularism, and the Human Future at ISHV's 2013 Columbia University Symposium

The Institute for Science and Human Values (ISHV) will convene its Third Annual Symposium at Columbia University in New York City on April 12-13, 2013. The theme for this year's event is "The Human Prospect and the Fate of Our Planetary Civilization: Science, Humanism, Ethics, and the Task Before Us." A distinguished cast of scientists, scholars and authors will assemble for an interdisciplinary examination of pressing issues at the forefront of humanism and society today. Discussions will center on how organized secular humanism can be translated into an effective public philosophy of pragmatic action and persuasion. Featured prominently will be Dr. Philip Kitcher, author of *Living with Darwin* and John Dewey Professor of Philosophy at Columbia, who will be fresh from delivering the prestigious 2013 Terry Lectures at Yale University on the topic of "Secular Humanism." Also among the powerful roster of speakers will be Rebecca Goldstein, Ronald Aronson, Susan Jacoby, James Giordano, Lindsay Beyerstein, John Shook, Toni Van Pelt, Terry O'Neill, Dr. Ron Miller, Bob Bindschadler, Stuart Jordan, Nel Noddings, Larry Hickman, Jacques Berlinerblau, Barry Kosmin, Anthony Pinn, and Linda LaScola.

"The overall theme of this event, our third yearly symposium, was conceived by our founder and former chairman, Paul Kurtz. Indeed, helping us plan for this was one of the final projects undertaken by Paul," said Stuart Jordan, president of ISHV. "We are sorry that he didn't live long enough to attend this special gathering, but we are happy to announce that the entire event will be dedicated to his memory, and quite appropriately so, as Columbia was his *alma mater*."

The full symposium program can be viewed online at, <http://instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.net/articles/symposiums-conferences/symposium-programs.htm>

Registration is \$175 for the general public and \$60 for students (valid student ID required at door and limited to 25 students). The symposium will commence on Friday evening, April 12 and run from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The all-day Saturday session on April 13 will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 6:00 p.m.

Find out more about end of life issues. Everyone has to face this final question. But there are choices not provided by conventional institutions. Click for [info](#).



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



[Click to register](#) for next year

Ages 7-16, Holland, NY

CFI & Community Outreach

By Rick O'Keefe

CFI-Tampa Bay is pleased to be co-sponsoring March's Humanist Society of the Suncoast discussion on the divisions of liberal and conservative thinking, led by Matt Cooper. Because education is at the core of Humanism and Center for Inquiry, here is a synopsis of what CFI offers, from the basics up through an accredited Masters course, plus Summer Camp for the kids.

The educational programs of CFI are concentrated in the [CFI Institute](#), founded in 1987. The Institute is the oldest continuously operating academic program of its kind in North America, the only one supported by a research organization or "think tank," and the only program staffed with resident fellows (faculty) and a significant number of distinguished visiting fellows.

We offer study of humanist thought and practice, with special reference to secular humanism and models and methods of scientific inquiry. Students can interact with and learn from the leading lights in the field of humanism and secularism. See our [Institute Catalogue here](#).



Rick O'Keefe



CFI Institute Online

The Institute now offers adult/continuing education seminar courses online, featuring leading authors, professors, and public figures focusing on issues such as science, secularism, humanism, and skepticism. Visit the [CFI Institute Online](#) for more information.

Science and the Public Ed.M.

CFI partners with the Graduate School of Education of the University at Buffalo in offering the accredited Ed.M. program in [Science and the Public](#), available entirely online!

Camp Inquiry

CFI also operates [Camp Inquiry](#), a summer camp that helps youth confront the challenges of living a non-theistic/secular lifestyle in a world dominated by religious belief and pseudoscience.

In 2013, Camp Inquiry will be in session from August 4th through August 12th. Registration will open after the new year. For more information please visit [campinquiry.org](#)

If you are unable to attend Camp Inquiry, please check the schedule for [Camp Quest](#), which offers a well-regarded secular summer camp at various locations throughout the United States.

Research in CFI Publications

Please visit the [CFI Publications](#) page for more information.

Philo: A Journal of Philosophy is a peer-reviewed academic journal which publishes original, conceptually precise, and argumentatively rigorous articles in all fields of philosophy. Although not devoted to any specific branch of philosophy, Philo encourages the submission of work that examines philosophical issues from an explicitly naturalist perspective. It also welcomes work on the philosophical credentials of both naturalism and various supernaturalist alternatives to naturalism.

The Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice is the only peer-reviewed journal devoted exclusively to distinguishing scientifically-supported claims from scientifically-unsupported claims in clinical psychology, psychiatry, social work, and allied disciplines.

Join CFI's **Humanist book club**, a monthly discussion. Contact David Vangness for details: [CLICK here](#).

National Events: May 17-29, 2013--[Women in Secularism](#)

Some of our divisions:

• [African Americans for Humanism](#)

• [Tampa Bay Skeptics](#) -- Central Florida's famous Skeptics assoc. See page 14.

• [The Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](#) -- world-wide assoc. of Skeptics and scientific investigations.

• [Cognitive Neuro Sciences, Inc.](#) -- Science-of-the-brain secular humanist oriented counseling/therapy center. Ideal for those wanting to avoid religious-oriented groups like AA.

• [Council for Secular Humanism](#) -- world-wide assoc. of Secular Humanists

To become part of our important work, and to make a difference, become a [member](#):

http://www.centerforinquiry.net/support/donate_now/

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

Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater:

Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Doc (Dave Dockery) President, Tampa Bay Computer Society

www.tampa-bay.org "We repair our members' computers for free!"





What is **Tampa Bay Skeptics**?

Founded in 1988, 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. In 2004, TBS became a Special Interest Group of the **Center For Inquiry–Tampa Bay**.

Particular areas of interest to TBS include **UFOs**, "**psychic**" **power**, **astrology**, **fringe science & medicine**, purported **miracles** and other **New Age** claims. Our interest in religion is restricted to claims that can be objectively tested and potentially verified, such as "weeping icons" or miraculous healings.

TBS conducts its own investigations, follows the activities of other skeptics groups, monitors the press coverage of the paranormal, and publishes a quarterly newsletter, ***Tampa Bay Skeptics Report***, which is also distributed gratis to members of the press and to many other skeptics groups around the world. TBS also makes its representatives available to local and national media to provide a skeptical voice as a counterweight to the irrationalism and superstition that is increasingly prevalent in the television and print media. We have been instrumental in examining and reporting upon the Tarpon Springs "weeping icon," hypnosis, (in)famous psychics, local astrologers, etc.

TBS does not reject claims out of hand, but rather is committed to objective and critical inquiry. In this vein, we share the philosophy of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (**CSI**) -- publisher of ***Skeptical Inquirer*** magazine, an international organization that has nurtured the growth of local skeptics groups (such as ours) all over the world.

**Attend the Tampa Bay Skeptics Quarterly Meeting Saturday, March 30, 2013, 11:00 AM
Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library on 3910 South Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611**

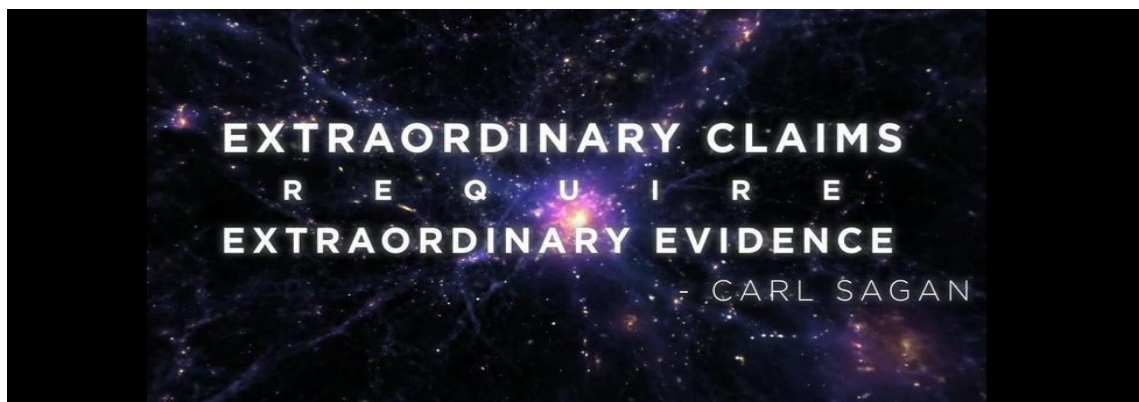
Membership in TBS

We encourage those who wish to help further the cause of skepticism to join TBS! You can take your first step, and make a statement about irrationality and superstition at the same time, by writing a check for \$15 to cover your first year's dues. Annual membership includes four issues of ***Tampa Bay Skeptics Report***, each snailmailed to you in advance of our quarterly meetings (last Saturday of every March, June, September, and December). Members also receive a 30% discount on any **Prometheus Books** purchased through TBS.

Make your \$15 check payable to "Tampa Bay Skeptics" and mail to:

CFI c/o O'Keefe, 4011 S. Manhattan Ave., Box 139, Tampa, FL 33611-1277

Or click to simply join our **TBS e-mail list(s)**? Or order **TBS T-shirts**? Or join **CFI–Tampa Bay**?





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

Practical Freethought

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

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

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

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

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

Non-theists are a large minority, larger than many minorities having much more political and cultural influence than we do. Based on the US Census Bureau estimate of Florida’s 2008 population and several polls, we estimate our statewide constituency at about 2,800,000 residents (more than 400,000 in the Tampa

Bay quad-county area). TampaBayCoR has organized to increase our standing in the marketplace of ideas and to take our rightful place at the table of acceptance and equal rights. We invite all nontheists to support us in our efforts by joining and actively participating in one of TBCoR’s constituent groups.

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

Holidays of Special Interest to Freethinkers

- **2013** International Year of [Water Cooperation](#) (UN)
- **April** is National Humor Month.
- **1st.** [Dyngus Day](#)
- **6th** [Plan Your Epitaph Day](#)
- **20th** [Volunteer Recognition Day](#)
- **22nd** [Earth Day – Create awareness of our future on a changed planet.](#)



TBCoR Leadership Team 2013

Mark Brandt, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O’Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Be Included!

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