



The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 1 No. 3 August 2012 Jim Peterson, Editor

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What does Secularism mean?

It is important for all Americans to realize that Constitutional Secularism is for everyone. The United States Constitution states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof” — The US Constitution thereby guarantees secularism to protect everyone and is therefore important to all citizens. Religious freedom for all prohibits the establishment of a particular religion or a particular religious law being forced on everyone.

Let us clearly understand that Constitutional Secularism is about Public Law made for the People and doesn't give special treatment to any views about religion. No religious group should impose religious law on society or impose religious tests on those who wish to run for public office. Similarly, public schools may not promote any religion and medical services should not depend on religious ‘moral’ choices. Public events should not include religious ceremonies, proselytizing or display religious creeds on public property.

Constitutional Secularism promises full and equal citizenship for everyone. Secularism protects personal religious belief. Secularism is NOT about the government imposing atheism or being anti-religion. Secularism is the only way to defend against religious tyranny.

Humanists, Freethinkers and Non-theists are for Constitutional Secularism, **just the way America's Founders intended!**
 --- *Robert Byrch*, President Tampa Humanist Association

Raising Money for Charity

By *Jennifer Hancock*, Leader of the Humanist Families of Greater Tampa.

The Foundation Beyond Belief has teamed with the Stiefel Freethought Foundation to raise money in support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The goal is to raise a combined total of \$1,000,000. So far a total of \$29,920.42 has been raised. Thanks to the matching grant from the Stiefel Freethought Foundation, that is effectively \$59,840.84 that will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

And the fundraising has just started. We have until early Nov. to complete our fundraising activities. This year, we are raising money in honor of **Christopher Hitchens**, who died of cancer. Every four minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer; every ten minutes someone dies. That is around 150,000 diagnoses and 50,000 deaths per year in the US alone. To date, LLS has invested more than \$814 million in research aimed at treating and curing blood cancer, with \$76.7 million in 2011 alone. They also provide direct patient aid for those in need, family support groups, and educational services. 76 cents of every dollar LLS spends goes towards LLS's mission of research and patient services. Over 100 teams have registered nationwide. Here in the Tampa area, we have five teams that are raising money.

The Happy Humanists are participating in the Lakewood Ranch fundraiser. The Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay and The Tampa Bay Parenting Beyond Belief group are both participating in the Tampa fundraiser. The Pinellas County Skeptics and the Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay Pinellas Chapter are both participating in the Clearwater fundraiser. This effectively means that Freethinkers will be participating in every Light Up the Night event in the greater Tampa area!

If you would like to join a walk or would simply like to make a donation – visit the team pages and either sign up to participate or make a donation or both! See page 9 for more, or click below:

Clearwater - <http://pages.lightthenight.org/sun/Pinellas12/PinellasCountySkeptics>

Clearwater - <http://pages.lightthenight.org/sun/Pinellas12/CenterforInquiryTampaBayPinellasFBB>

Lakewood Ranch/Manasota - <http://pages.lightthenight.org/sun/SarasotL12/HappyHumanists>

Tampa - <http://pages.lightthenight.org/sun/Tampa12/CenterforInquiryTampaBayFBB>

Tampa - <http://pages.lightthenight.org/sun/Tampa12/TampaBayParentingBeyondBeliefGroupFBB9qr>

Also, see page 9.

Directory

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar

Rick O'Keefe

Website

Rob Byrch

Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects

Mark Brandt

Be Included!

Group Leaders are invited to send items for this Newsletter. Please send them to:

Jamestp@metrodirect.net

For calendar items, include as much info as possible.

August 2012 COR Calendar

Compiled by *Rick O'Keefe*, with *Dale Friedley*, *Rob Byrch*, & *Jim Peterson*

Dates/times may change due to unforeseen reasons,

Check event details on the Coalition of Reason website at:

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

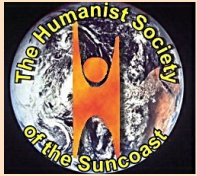
Joint CFI & Brandon Atheists—BRANDON

Starts Sunday night, August 12th, at 7:00 PM

Location: The Brass Tap, 775 Brandon Town Center, Brandon, FL

map: [RSVP](#) to Kathryn before Friday, August 10th, noon.

The Brandon Atheists are a fun and friendly social-only group (no divisive activism). So, if you want good conversation and a choice of 400+ craft beers, visit our monthly joint evening of freethought enjoyment. Ask the host for the Brandon Atheists table.



The Suncoast Humanist Society

meets at Countryside Library, **Clearwater** [Map](#) at 2741 S.R 580 . Saturday, August 4 at 2 PM will host an open session discussing **the Nature of Racism in Human Society** and what we as a

group and individually can do to address the more egregious consequences. See page 3



CFI Skeptics in the Pub BRANDON

Mid Day Sunday Mixer Ghengis Grill 910

Providence Ave. Brandon FL. Sunday August 19th at 3 PM

More info at:

<http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/> **RSVP** to Carl at (813) 661-0633 or [here](#).

UU Clearwater Humanists

UU Humanists will be having their next gathering at Applebee's, 5110 E. Bay Dr. Clearwater, on August 17th at 7pm. Please confirm reservations after July 14, to Bill Norsworthy 727-687-9867, or Mark Brandt 727-733-7855 or 727-560-0971, by August 3.

For information, folks can contact Bill Norsworthy at 687- 9867 or Mark Brandt at 560-0971. **RSVP** to Mark for most events at

mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu



Tampa Bay Thinkers Discussion Group CARROLLWOOD CULTURAL CENTER

Monday August 20 at 6:30 pm **RSVP** at website.

A variety of contemporary issues are discussed in depth. Details can be seen on our [Meetup](#) site. If

you will be going, please bring a potluck snack, or picnic-type treat.

Location: Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Rd,

Carrollwood, FL 33618 (NW Tampa) Click for a [MAP](#) to the Center.



Humanist Families of Tampa Bay **Picnic & Swim in the**

Park Family Picnic with us on Sunday August 5th 10 to 12 at: Oscar Scherer State Park 1843 Tamiami Trail, Osprey FL 34229

[Map](#) Our area is all the way to the end of the road!

Café Philo—philosophical discussion group in Tampa at Dale Mabry Barnes & Noble See [Website](#) for more info.

Tampa Humanist Association—NEW TAMPA



Starts Saturday, July 21st, 2012 at 11:00 am

Location: Jimmie B. Keele Library, 2902 W.

Bearss Avenue, Wesley Chapel, FL

MAP: Jimmie B. Keele Library

Topic and speaker to be announced. Check the website.

CFI Skeptics & Humanists in the Pub—DUNEDIN

Sunday, August 26th 6:00 PM

Café Alfresco, 344 Main Street, Dunedin, FL 34698

Map, menu, etc.

Our monthly Dunedin gathering is a congenial affair, with far-ranging discussions and good humor. Join us! Voted "Best Restaurant on the Pinellas Trail 2009" by *Tampa Bay Magazine*.

RSVP is required if you are coming so we can reserve enough space. Seating is limited! [Click here](#) before noon, June 24 (Sunday) (Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net).

THA German Cuisine Night—NEW TAMPA/USF

Starts Wednesday, August 15th, 2012 at 6:00 pm

Location: Mr. Dunderbak's Beer Garden, 14929 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa FL 33613 (813) 977-4104

Come and enjoy German food and a wide variety of beers with your fellow freethinkers. If you like Red cabbage, potato pancakes, sandwiches and other gustatory delights ..., this is for you.

Usually, every 3rd Wednesday is our German Beer night.

Map: <http://tinyurl.com/3cy7ctb>

Menu: <http://dunderbaks.com/menu.html>

RSVP required: "reply" or call (813) 344-5256 by 5 PM, Monday, July 17th so we can reserve space. Subject to cancellation.

Art Film Meetup:

Dale Friedly host a showing/discussion of:

Life and Death in Ecuador



Always see [website](#) for updated info. Studio 620 at 620 1st Ave. S. St. Petersburg, FL Saturday, August 28th at 6:45 PM

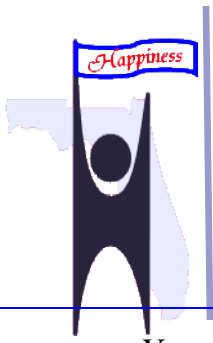
Email: DaleFried@aol.com

August social dinner for the Humanist Society

will take place on Sunday August 22nd at 5:00PM at the Thai Bay Restaurant at 1300 East Bay Drive in Largo. Please reserve with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email reply by Saturday July 21st. Hope to see many of you there.

Need Psychological Counseling? For a secular therapist, see: [Cognitive Neuro Sciences Inc.](#) Or, [The Therapist Project](#).

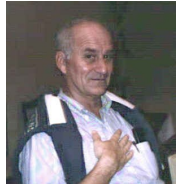




The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

You are invited to participate in another of our popular summer forums....



RACISM (A Secret Superstition)

Glenn Paul invites us to examine our own lives and our social institutions as we continue to grapple with one of the most enduring problems of American life.

Scientifically, race is an unsupportable concept. DNA samples taken from people from all over the world will not produce any clear boundaries or markers that separate one distinct group of humans from another. This illustrates an important point; we're not looking at 'races', we are looking at populations. Human identity is not connected to any hue or characteristic, there is only the observation that populations that settle in the same area will tend to develop genetic similarities if isolated long enough.

Race means nothing. It is a concept that derives from social prejudices against people from another culture or appearance different from one's own. If you're going to discriminate on skin color and slight differences in facial features then you may as well discriminate on eye color or the shape of people's ears. While there may be populations who share some characteristics after some relative geographical isolation, there is no real difference between one human being and another.

So how does this relate to Humanism? Humanism represents an opportunity to use reason, science, and compassion to guide our actions in creating our world. Since racism is an ignorant superstition not dissimilar to religious superstitions, it has no place in our world. We need to make clear that it is not acceptable, and to educate those who believe otherwise. But racism is so endemic and hidden within our culture, that we are obliged to confront it in ourselves before we can deal with it as the social problem it is. We need to educate ourselves about the reality of racism. There is clear and incontrovertible evidence of racism within ourselves and our society, if we have the honesty to look. The data on victims of violence or harassment, the justice system, education, poverty, representation in business, the media and politics amply supports the notion of the lingering effects of a pernicious, deep seated cultural heritage and practice of subconscious and overt racist choices. Where we see this revealed in this season's political contest, we need to stop, investigate why it is happening and think about what we can do to nip this noxious weed in the bud. This is the Humanist obligation. JP

Volume 20 No. 8

August, 2012



We now have undeniable evidence that cell phone location tracking is out of control. A front-page story in the *New York Times* makes a stunning revelation: mobile phone providers received **1.3 million law enforcement requests for customer records last year.**

Here's the thing: there is no clear standard controlling when cell phone carriers can give your information to the government. That's why we need to get mobile phone surveillance under control. **Urge your members of Congress to support the GPS Act.**

Unregulated location tracking poses a real, immediate and far-reaching threat to our privacy. Everyone who has a mobile phone is carrying a portable tracking device, one that can be used to reveal our every move.

Given the sensitivity and invasiveness of these records, law enforcement agents should always be required to obtain a warrant and show probable cause before accessing it. This massive and growing use of cell phone tracking means we need immediate action setting clear legal guidelines for release of this highly private information. (TED talk [here](#))

Ask your members of Congress: support the GPS Act setting standards for law enforcement access to your personal information.



Remember... we meet in the **Countryside Library** at 2741 State Rd. 580 in Clearwater



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.



Please join us for this free and open discussion.

On **Saturday, August 4th** 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**, across from the mall.



*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 the human spirit.
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

Our monthly social dinner,

The Moveable Feast for August will be at:

Thai Bay Restaurant

on Sunday August 19th at 5:00PM. It is located at Thai Bay Restaurant 1300 East Bay Dr. near Highland in Largo.

This restaurant has been a favorite, with many varieties of Thai cuisine at reasonable prices. (\$8-14)

Please reserve by August 18th.

Contact Glenn Paul by the at 727-595-3347 or email at kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com.

Laugh Lines Paraprosdokians*

1. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted pay checks.
2. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
3. I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was blaming you.
4. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
5. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
6. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
7. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
8. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
9. There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.
10. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
11. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
12. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
13. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
14. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
15. Where there's a will, there are relatives.

8/12

Thanks to **Connie Purdum**

* **paraprosdokian** is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to re-frame or re-interpret the first part.

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
Jim Butler
Robert Byrch
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, Bob Collette, Glenn
Paul, Don Acenbrach, Jackie Jordan,
Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard, Matt
Cooper

~*~*~*~*~*

Jim Butler Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

How you can Help

I hope these general notes are helpful.

Contribute to the welfare of our own local chapter by leading efforts to bridge gaps, bring tolerance and social unity, and exercise kindness everywhere. A little financial help is always appreciated as well. **Start by renewing your membership!**

At a recent board meeting, we made plans to participate with an **information table** at a major public event in the coming year.

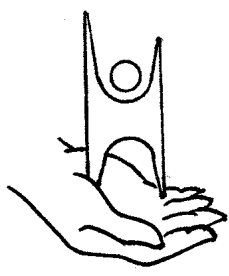
We are putting together a **Speakers Bureau** for outreach. You can help in many ways.

And we need help in setting up our meetings: chairs, electronic components when needed, literature and food collection tables. **See a Board member** to offer your help. **JP**

~ *Join or Renew* ~
The Humanist Society
of the Suncoast.

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 (813) 662-6612
- ◆ Patricia Walters (813) 988-5977

Annual Dues

- _ Trial -3 month- free news
- _ **Regular -\$25.**
- _ **Renewal (January)**
- _ **Reg. Couple -\$30.**
- _ **Life -\$200.**
- _ **Life Couple -\$250.**
- _ **Associate -\$10.**
- _ **Contribution for growth**

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)

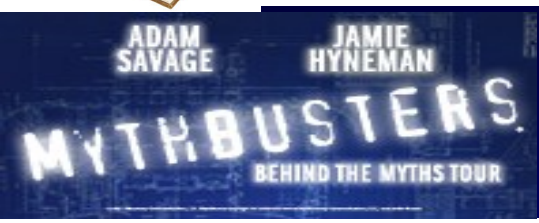
Send to:

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

Our Humanist Traveling Library Has a new Librarian - **Marios Psomas!**



We have a wonderful library of current books. This is a circulating library that depends on the integrity (and memory) of members to return and keep circulated, the many volumes in this fine unique collection. Thanks once again to the great and generous efforts of **Matt Cooper**, Matt has "paid it forward", now it's our turn.



Sat, Oct 13, 2012 08:00 PM
at the USF Sun Dome
4202 East Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33620
Reserve seating available: \$35 to \$190

Our Humanist Society is actively looking for interesting speakers with novel and well thought out ideas on just about any subject of interest to a general audience - even if not from a distinctly Humanist perspective.

Let any board member know if you would like to recommend a speaker or topic. Call

Your published Letters....

Science shortage

How discouraging it was to see your chart showing under 20 percent of Americans believe in evolution without help of a god. Americans need to get over their ancient superstitions and realize that humans are the dominant animal species because of the primary evolutionary benefit of being bipedal, giving us the greatest warrior abilities in all the animal kingdom. It's been said that without religion the world would be at least a thousand years more advanced. Our schools have really failed teaching science and thinking skills due to the influence of organized religion.
6/20 TB Times



Francis Prahl

Read Humanist Periodicals:

The Humanist, Free Inquiry, Free Mind, Humanist Perspectives, Skeptical Inquirer, Secular Humanist Bulletin, The Florida Humanist Journal, Skeptic, Essays in Humanism, and many others.

Humanist Quotes

“The four characteristics of humanism are curiosity, a free mind, belief in good taste, and belief in the human race.”

E. M. Forster

Read more [here](#).





Constitution or Form of Government for the People of Florida.

We, the people of the State of Florida by our delegates in Convention assembled, in the city of Tallahassee, on the 25th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1865, and of the Independence of the United States, the 90th year, in order

A Trojan Horse

A proposed Florida constitutional amendment has the potential to radically redefine the relationship between church and state, a rabbi has warned.

Rabbi Kurt F. Stone of North Broward Havurah in Coral Springs employed a historical allusion in his May 7 essay for OpEdNews.com. He referred to the famous battle of Troy when Greeks laid siege to the city but could not find a way inside the walls – until they came up with the Trojan horse.

The enormous hollow horse appeared to be a gift, but when the men of Troy pulled it inside the city gates, they unknowingly sealed their fate. The horse was full of top Greek warriors who opened the gates to the city, leading to an invasion.

“And ever since,” wrote Stone, “the term ‘Trojan Horse’ has been a metaphor for any trick or stratagem that causes a target to invite a foe into a securely protected bastion or space. Like the folks of ancient Troy, we, the citizens of Florida have a Trojan Horse parked outside the gates of our once ‘securely protected bastion’:

Amendment 8.” Continued Stone, “Far from being a measure to preserve religious freedom, Amendment 8 is intended to enshrine state government funding of religious schools and organizations.” Stone argued that the amendment is not necessary, noting that the state can and does partner with religious groups under certain circumstances. If enacted, it will, he said, gut public education. Americans United has been working with Florida groups to educate voters about Amendment 8, which will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot.

In May, AU Legislative Director Maggie Garrett and Assistant Field Director for Religious Outreach Steven Baines toured the state, working with AU chapters on a series of educational events. Garrett spoke first in Ft. Lauderdale, then traveled to Miami and Dade County; she also spoke in Naples. Baines, meanwhile, started out in Jacksonville, then traveled to Flagler County. Garrett and Baines ended with events in Sarasota and Tampa Bay/St. Petersburg. Baines said he was pleased by the positive reaction he and Garrett received.

“People are really worried that Florida voters don’t know what the real impact of this amendment is,” Baines said. “The ballot language sounds harmless, even beneficial. But it’s really a giant python that will strangle religious liberty and swallow it whole!”

For more information about Amendment 8, visit AU’s website at:

<http://au.org/flamendment8>

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Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better

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.) Entry for withdrawals is located here:

<http://bankofwisdom.com>

economichumanrights.org

POOR PEOPLE'S ECONOMIC HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Contact: Rev. Bruce Wright

Phone: (727) 278 1547

Email: bgwright@aol.com

Web: <http://economichumanrights.org>

The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign and others will march on opening day of the Republican National Convention on AUGUST 27th, Monday from 3pm to 530pm.

This is a March of the Homeless, the Poor, the Unemployed and Supporters to call for a STOP TO ALL FORECLOSURES, STOP THE CRIMINALIZATION OF THE POOR AND HOMELESS. HOUSING AND FOOD ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!



University of South Florida

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:RodrickColbert) 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

Website: www.uuclearwater.org



Clearwater, Florida

New

UU Humanists will be having their next gathering at Applebee's, 5110 E. Bay Dr. Clearwater, on August 17th at 7pm. Please confirm reservations after July 14, to Bill Norsworthy 727-687-9867, or Mark Brandt 727-733-7855 or 727-560-0971, by August 3.

Sir Harold Kroto, an ardent Humanist and Nobel Laureate in chemistry, will be speaking at UU Humanists meeting on Sunday, September 30, at 12:30pm. Dr. Kroto now teaches at FSU in Tallahassee, and will speak for an hour. All welcome.



**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.

Tampa Humanist Association

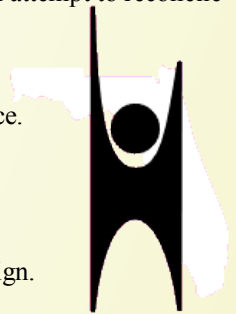
Some thoughts on Tom Bird's recent presentation by Robert Byrch

On Saturday July 21, 2012, one of our members, Tom Bird Ph.D., presented a talk entitled "Harmonious Madness" – Romanticism's Challenge to Humanism.

While Tom made an excellent presentation, time limitations, questions and the general lack of knowledge on what was primarily a European event, made it difficult for some to fully grasp the Romantic Period and its influence on humanism.

The first thing to understand about Romanticism is that it was an international artistic and philosophical movement that redefined in fundamental ways how people in Western Europe thought about themselves and the world. I have always felt that it provided a 'heroic' aspect to man's spirit, his endeavors and his proper place in the natural world. To me, this is part of what it is to be human and I acknowledge romanticism as an important and necessary function of imagination which, I regard, as the engine of human progress, equal with science and logic and an attempt to reconcile symbolism with realism.

So, Tom, you sold me and, we all will be looking forward to hearing more from you on finding wholeness in the human experience.



Saturday August 18, 2012 at 11.00am

**Jimmie B. Keele Library,
2902 W. Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL.**

Look for the Tampa Humanist Association sign.

Topic: TBA

In addition, we have instituted a Humanist Movie club and run joint Humanists and Skeptics in the Pub with our colleagues from the Center for Inquiry. For a **complete schedule of events** see:

<http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association>

Or Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/tampahumanist> Or our website: <http://www.tampahumanist.com>

Join us for our fun, open and, enlightening discussions.

Annual Membership Dues

"Time to come to the aid of the Party"

Most people belong to one or more membership organizations and are dues paying members. These dues constitute donations to the organization and are tax-deductible under IRS laws. While many take advantage of the tax deduction, people primarily join and renew because they believe in the organization. Most feel they are helping to make a difference and trust that the organization is wisely investing the dues they pay. Tampa Humanist Association, Inc. is your Association and paying this small annual dues gives you the right to vote and a vested interest in its growth and success.

While it requires an up-front investment and volunteer staff time, a membership program is a key ingredient in a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization's fund raising strategy. Membership programs produce a steady annual flow of cash to help cover operating expenses, start-up costs for new projects, and on-going program expenses. A membership program can also help engage people with a willingness and a potential interest in making larger capital gifts in the future.

Spinoff benefits for our membership program include:

- Greater public awareness of the organization and its objectives
- Building a network of likeminded friends
- Building a resource base for volunteer support
- Attracting larger gifts down the line

The Website, Meetup page and refreshments served at our meetings. A membership program alone is not enough to sustain an organization. Yet it serves as a basic building block along with other fundraising tools such as on-line fundraising, capital campaigns, and deferred giving programs.

(Continued on Page 10)

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future



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

Website:
Rob Byrch

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 not a membership organizations, but an alliance of groups identified with the Humanist /Atheist movement.

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments and problems. JP



TBPC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

Uncharted Waters & Forbidding Forests



Human civilization developed on Earth under certain climate conditions. Over the last 150 years, however, we have released so much carbon into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels that the climate is changing — and not for the better. Rising sea levels mean devastating storm surges for low-lying farmlands and cities.

Disappearing glaciers mean less water for vast areas of India, China, and the American West. Shifting climate zones mean many plants and animals will no longer survive where they've been — and may not be able to survive in new areas. Vast forests around the world are being burned, or hollowed out by the action of tropical insects moving relentlessly north. Climate change is real — the scientific debate on has long been over. What remains is to build the political will to do something about it.

We invite you to become a member of the Council, and make a difference in the quality of our lives. Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more.

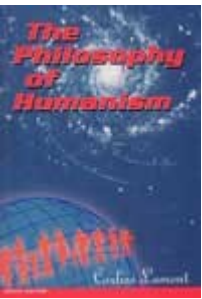
Humanist Books from the AHA

One Planet One People by Carl Coon Hardcover 149 pp \$22.



By Carl Coon, Former Ambassador to Nepal In this succinct, highly readable overview of the evolution of human society, the author argues that the 21st century will witness a crucially important and difficult transition for the human race. Blending the disciplines of anthropology and evolutionary psychology with over thirty years of experience in the diplomatic corps, Coon traces the evolution of the human tendency to divide others into two groups, "us versus them." Today, he argues, we have reached a stage where the whole world must be viewed as "us," for only a united world community can cope with today's global challenges.

The Philosophy of Humanism - Corliss Lamont



\$16.95

By 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.

Why Was I Born?



\$5.00

Why Was I Born? What is my purpose for being here?

A Humanistic view of life by Lyle J Simpson.

These books and a great many more can be ordered from: **The Humanist Press**
<http://evolvefish.com/fish/HumanistPress.html>



The Foundation Beyond Belief is sponsoring a local "light up the night Walk" on behalf of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). This is a walk, not a run or jog, and there will be assistance along the trail. For more information see:

<http://pages.lightthenight.org/2012/>

Endorsed by the American Humanist Association, Center For Inquiry, Harvard Humanist Chaplaincy & Alumni, Secular Student Alliance, and United Coalition of Reason, and nearly every national association. The Steifel Family has promised to match every dollar up to \$500,000. **A short walk for a great cause!**

"...being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead."

Kurt Vonnegut

Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association

Freethinking Film Enthusiasts Flocking to Denver

9

**Freethought
Film
Festival
Foundation**



Promoting Reason Through Film

The Freethought Film Festival Foundation (FFFF) is hosting its second annual International Freethought Film Festival at multiple venues in downtown Denver, Colorado from July 31 to August 5th.

The festivities kick off with a Tap Takeover party on Tuesday, July 31st at Funky Buddha Lounge, located at 776 Lincoln Street. They will be tapping award winning craft beer from Tampa, Florida's Cigar City Brewing—an establishment that is well known by craft beer enthusiasts. The pre-screening schedule also includes a freethought celebrity Texas Hold 'em poker tournament and casino night charity event on Wednesday, August 1st. Aptly dubbed "Poker in the Church", it is being held at 1160 Lincoln Street at The Church nightclub. South of Colfax Nightlife District (SoCo) is supporting the benefit as the venue sponsor, and has assisted with recruiting local Denver celebrities like Barry Fey and Peter Boyles. Committed freethought celebrities to date include writers, scientists, activists, leaders and entertainers, who are widely recognized in the secular movement. All proceeds from the charity event will benefit the Foundation Beyond Belief, a humanist, charitable, nonprofit organization that raises and distributes funds to five different charities per quarter. Beneficiaries include charities in the categories of education, poverty and health, human rights and the natural world.

Opening night of the International Freethought Festival screenings is Thursday, August 2nd at the Mayan Theater, 110 Broadway—a venue selected for irony's sake, according to FFFF executive director, Andrea Steele. Beginning at 8:30 pm, she will be delivering the opening welcome, and introducing the night's feature film, *The Trouble with St. Mary's*. When seventy two year old Father Peter Kennedy is sacked by the Catholic Church for unorthodox practices, the fight that ensues will result in the exodus of an entire Catholic community as they follow their priest into the unknown, causing one of the biggest rifts in the history of the Australian Catholic Church.

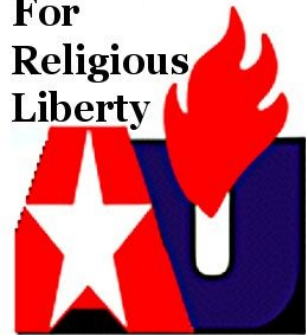
There are 11 other screenings scheduled throughout the film festival, including a double-feature on Friday afternoon at the Denver Performing Arts Complex Studio Loft, and a program of short films on Sunday at the Denver Film Center. Filmmakers and special guests will be making appearances for Q&A's. Included in the line up are former Colorado Governor, Dick Lamm; the Robert L. Kroc Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, Howard L Weiner, MD; and *Attack of the Theocrats* author and former Maine legislator, Sean Faircloth.

The International Freethought Film Festival is a home for Independent films from around the globe that critically examine truth-claims. Reason, logic, critical thinking and science are embraced as the best ways to explain the natural world; while superstition, dogma, tradition and argument by authority are rejected as justifications for practices, policies and behaviors that are often of detriment to humans and the earth. Freedom of inquiry and expression are boldly exercised. The International Freethought Film Festival tagline, "Going there!!!" is a reflection of this. Tickets for the events and screenings can be purchased at our Website at www.freethoughtfilmfest.org

Freethought Film Festival Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization, exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Federal tax code. Established in August, 2009. For more information contact: **Andrea Steele**

A Tradition of Advocacy

For Religious Liberty



Americans United

for Separation of Church & State

~ Pinellas County Chapter ~

For more information, see: <http://www.au.org/>

The Chapter meets at Good Samaritan Church located at 6085 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park (61st St.). The next meeting is September 10, at 7:00 PM.

We are working for the defeat of Amendment 8, the so called Freedom of Religion Amendment. It allows tax payer funds to support religious schools & organizations. Also, we will be contacting local churches to remind them of the legal dos and don'ts concerning pulpit electioneering.

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

Tampa Humanist Association news (continued from page 7)

Membership in Tampa Humanist Association, Inc. comes in two categories: SINGLE MEMBER for \$25.00 and COUPLE for \$35.00. Provision for making Donations is also available. Payment may be made by check or by PayPal on our website: <http://www.tampahumanist.com> Thank you for investing in Humanism by becoming a member, which gives you the right to vote and fully participate in all activities and events.

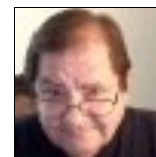
We have recently filed to become a charter member of the American Humanist Association, headquartered in Washington, DC. AHA, with their extensive local and national **media contacts**, their lobbying and **coalition efforts** on Capitol Hill and the efforts of our **grassroots activists**, will ensure that the humanist point of view is represented in the halls of power, down on Main Street, and everywhere in-between.

Through our Charter Membership with AHA, we work alongside other national organizations in the community of reason, and also reach out to our progressive allies to work on issues of common concern.

Working with our sister organization, the *Humanist Society of the Suncoast* and the Tampa Branch of *Center for Inquiry* and other organizations within the United Coalition of Reason, it is THA's intention to enlarge the voice of humanism within the Tampa Bay region.

Officers and board of THA:

President: **Robert Byrch**,
Vice-President: Rick O'Keefe,
Secretary: Dale Friedley - Media
Treasurer: Gale Barron,
At large: Gin Kohl Lieberman - Media
Patricia Walters-Events, & Jim Peterson- Newsletter



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

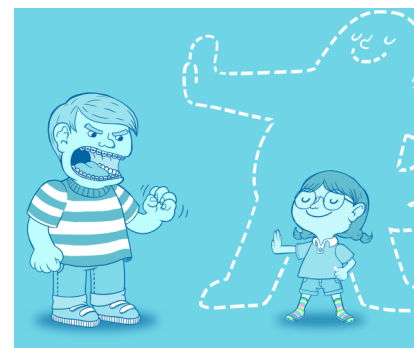
Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings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



Atheists of Florida



Chairman, Tracy Thomas
President, Ed Golly
Vice President, Frank Prahl
Treasurer, Nan Owens
Acting Secretary, Tracy Thomas

AoF outreach programs are currently in hiatus, pending resolution of legal matters regarding our media and Meetup sites. A copy of the current 2012 newsletter is available by writing to: AthAIFLE@aol.com.

Look for exciting new programs in the offing very soon. We are a resource for those with questions and doubts about the standard religious narrative of life. We affirm the positive values of a rigorously logical and scientific approach to the problems 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.

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.

AoF has been a leader in the effort to preserve church state separation. We look forward to serving a growing constituency.



Institute for Science and Human Values

Inspired by Empathy, Creativity and guided by Reason

(No Local chapters at this time. See <http://www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.net/>)

NIX 6

Passing CEDAW



by **Toni Van Pelt**, Public Policy Director of the Institute for Science and Human Values and Southeast Regional Director for the National Organization for Women.

If the world's hopes for the Obama administration are now sinking like the Titanic, let's draw a lesson from that story and put women and children first into the lifeboats – that is, on the agenda of the current Senate session.

The new crop of conservatives elected in November 2010, have made no secret of their plans to roll back Obama's gains for women and children, cutting vital social programs. The current Senate can blunt some of those assaults by ratifying CEDAW, the global women's treaty.

CEDAW, formally known as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women and girls. Signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, it is among President Obama's top three treaty priorities after the START arms-reduction pact, which Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) already plans to bring to a vote this fall. He should add CEDAW to that urgent calendar.

When I travel the world, I ask the women I meet what would improve their lives. The answer is a living wage job. When I arrive in a country and see children in ragged clothing begging on the streets, I ask them what they would like to do with their lives. The answer? "I wish my family could send me to school." I have witnessed first hand the need for the United States to take a leadership role in helping to build a bridge worldwide from the reality of all women and children's lives to the promise of the American dream – a stable, happy, productive life.

CEDAW ratification would strengthen the United States as a global leader in standing up for women and girls. It would amplify the U.S. voice in defending women's human rights around the world, continuing that proud tradition. Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton ratified similar agreements on torture, genocide and race; the American public strongly supports the principles and values of education, equality, fairness and basic human rights that CEDAW embodies.

Ed note: Toni wrote this in late 2010, but the struggle to get the senate to pass CEDAW continues, and the same arguments apply. Conservative religious groups are the main opposition, objecting to abortion and contraception rights among other progressive measures. It seems we have a shameful history of failure when it comes to ratifying the most fundamental human rights issues.

8/12

Holidays of Special Interest to Freethinkers

- August 11th - The birth of **Robert Ingersoll**, America's greatest orator on behalf of Freethought and Humanism in the 19th century.
- 2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (UN)





**Tampa
Bay**

By **Rick
O'Keefe**

CFI–Tampa Bay is supporting Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation with two teams (click for the team page), **Light The Night's Pinellas Walk** at Bright House Networks Field on **Nov 3**, 2012 for the team Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay-Pinellas-FBB, and **Light The Night's Tampa Walk** at George M. Steinbrenner Field on **Nov 10**, 2012 for the team Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay-FBB. How can you help? If you can't walk, you can donate. All the Humanist organizations are participating. Details and sign-up: <http://www.lighththenight.org/>.

National Events

August 5-11: **Camp Inquiry** – Western New York

August 9-12: **Skeptics Toolbox** – Eugene, Oregon

October 25-28: **CSICON**--Nashville, TN

May 17-29, 2013--Women in Secularism

Humanism and Politics by *Ronald A. Lindsay*

In the United States, politics dominates the news as we gear up for the fall elections. Not only will we have to decide on a president, but there are contests for Congress and most state legislatures, as well as state referenda on numerous issues, some of which have important public policy implications. It's at times like these when I often hear discussed the question of *whether being a humanist commits one to certain political positions*. For example, given some of the positions of the Republican Party on social issues, is it inconsistent to be both a Republican and a humanist?

First, let me make clear that I am not asking whether it is inconsistent to be an atheist and a Republican or a nontheist and a Republican. Those questions would be easy to answer. There is no inconsistency. Atheism does not entail acceptance of any political position. (Aside: this is one reason I find the existence of the National Atheist Party more than a little curious.) One can even reject the separation of church and state and be an atheist. As one (cynical) atheist once remarked to me, "Just because there is no God doesn't mean people don't need religion." I suspect many of the Wall Street financiers who donate generously to presidential campaigns of candidates supported by the religious Right have an attitude similar to this: "Of course, religion is just mumbo-jumbo, but we need it to keep the 99 percent under control."

Most humanists are atheists, but they are not merely atheists. As the Council for Secular Humanism proclaims, humanism is "beyond atheism, beyond agnosticism." In other words, being a humanist implies not only rejection of deities and spirits but also acceptance of certain fundamental principles.

Prominent among these principles are commitments to critical thinking, respect for individual autonomy, and an ethics that is broadly consequentialist in nature. Moreover, we humanists *are* firmly committed to a strict separation of church and state; among other reasons, we value individual liberty, and religious dogma has proven harmful to human interests when it has been allowed to influence public policy.

For these reasons, it would be difficult to reconcile an embrace of humanism with opposition to, for example, contraception, same-sex marriage, cohabitation without marriage, laws and regulations that protect and promote racial and gender equality, freedom of expression, and universal suffrage. If we truly respect individual autonomy, we must allow individuals the freedom to give shape and direction to their own lives, especially with respect to critical, life-altering choices, such as whether and whom to marry and whether or not to bear children. We also must ensure that individuals have the opportunity to pursue a livelihood without restrictions based on characteristics such as race or sex. It is also important that every adult have the right to participate in political life and have a role in deciding who our legislators and chief executive should be.

The official newsletter of the Center for Inquiry-International is the *CFI Report*.

Join in on our Free Inquirers Club's monthly discussion.

Contact David Vangness for details: [CLICK here](#).

[See page 13 for more news of CFI](#)



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

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> & www.compassionandchoices.org



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.

TBS's "\$1,000 Challenge"

Whenever possible, TBS attempts to put claims to the test. Since 1989 we have had a standing **\$1,000 Challenge** available to anyone able to provide TBS with verifiable scientific proof of any paranormal phenomenon. No one has yet succeeded, but we remain open-minded (though highly skeptical) and desirous of subjecting testable paranormal claims to objective scrutiny. Should anyone ever succeed in a test for TBS, we will arrange for a test by the James Randi Educational Foundation for its **\$1,000,000 Challenge**.

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. #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](#)?

(Note that we are offering a free 1st year membership in TBS for members of Center for Inquiry.) Back issues of the ***TBS Report*** may be found here: http://tampabayskeptics.org/tbs_report.html

See more CFI news on [Page 12](#)



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

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

So you don't believe in gods? You are not alone. And yes, you can be good without God. Millions are. 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 representing freethinkers, humanists, skeptics, atheists and agnostics that provide a sense of community and a central clearinghouse for the many like-minded groups in the greater Tampa Bay 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.

This site <http://unitedcor.org/tampabay> 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 nontheists 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.



CoR Leadership Team 2012

Mark Brandt, Rob Byrch, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson
Inset: Ed Golly

Nontheists 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). Tampa Bay CoR 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.

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—you can be good without a god or religion. Millions of us are. *Rick O'Keefe*

Rick is the leader of CFI for Tampa Bay and also the Calendar coordinator for the coalition of Reason.



Cultural Treasures... Museum of Science & Industry

One of the country's best museums of general science with constantly rotating new exhibits. Recent shows have included a look at the inventions of Leonardo Davinci complete with full size replications of his astonishingly diverse mind.

Find it at:
4801 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33617

All these things are yours.
Stay awhile and be uplifted.

Stunning Events Being Planned

Coalition members are working hard to bring great new programs and common speakers to our area. Already efforts are being made to design activities and observances of the February **birthday of Charles Darwin**. By joining our efforts and treasury, we will be able to bring a national level speaker to be the center point of our program around February 12 of 2013. We can't say who it is yet, but you'll be delighted when you find out!

We welcome more organizations to join this Coalition effort. Contact us [Here](#).