



The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 12 December 2013 Jim Peterson,

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Winterfest



Yet another year has passed in the history of our species. A great philosopher once observed that “*mankind makes no problem for itself that it cannot solve.*” But why does it take so long? Our problems seem huge: environmental degradation, political impasse, mass religious delusions, a challenging future.

You have ideas on all these matters. And it is for you, the freethinker, that the Coalition of Reason exists. By continuous learning and exchanging ideas with others, we edge ever closer to propelling new concepts outward to the larger society. We need to break the logjam of entrenched traditions and doubtful allegiances that keep us mired in the desultory muck of conventional thinking.

Join us on Saturday, December 7th, beginning at 5:00 for our annual celebration of Humanism, Freethought, Atheism, Secularism, and all things and people associated with the movement for the free mind. Like last year, it will be a potluck, at the social hall of the Clearwater Unitarian-Universalists, **2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater**. This event is sponsored by the Coalition of Reason and graciously hosted by our UU Humanist friends.

It will start around 5 pm and go to around 7, and will be delicious! A brief musical entertainment will be provided by the *St. Pete Shanties*. The company (over 125 last year), will needless to say, be fantastic. Below is the food schedule:

If your last name begins with **A to F**: bring a Starch or veggie. If it starts with **G to L**, bring a Main Dish. If it starts with **M to R**: a dessert. **S to Z**: salad.

Plates, cutlery, napkins, etc will be provided. A small (**\$3**) donation is asked for the hall, otherwise free; there will be a cash bar available for soda, wine & beer. Last year over 100 happy Epicureans, found friendship and good conversation. Join us!

Directory

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar

Rick O’Keefe

Web site

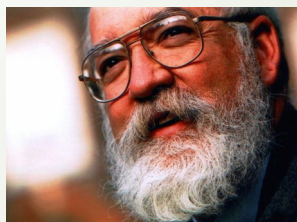
Jim Peterson

Newsletter

Jim Peterson

Special Projects

Mark Brandt



Daniel Dennett

One of the world’s most important living philosophers, **Dan Dennett**, is best known for his provocative and controversial arguments.

Dr. Dennett, is scheduled to be TBCoR’s keynote speaker at Clearwater on Darwin Day- February 8th 2014 . Tickets @ \$30 are on sale from many of our constituent organizations. Get yours now for the best pricing. Read more on this event next month.



Please remember to bring a box, can, or package of non-expired food or a donation for **Tampa Bay Harvest**. With conservative inspired cutbacks in food aid, the situation grows more serious for many families in our area.



**HUMANIST
CHARITIES**

[Click to connect!](#)

Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – December, 2013 Calendar

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This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.

12-7, 1 st Saturday, 5 PM	CLEARWATER – CoR Winterfest Potluck The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: See pages 1 & 3 http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
12 15, Sunday, 1:30 PM	S TAMPA – Atheists of Florida–Tampa Chapter	Details & to RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/
12-08, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON – Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub. RSVP . http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/
12-16, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD – Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. RSVP at Web site : http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
12-16, 3 rd Saturday, 12:30 AM	TAMPA – Keel Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic: see page 5 http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
12-15 Sunday, 5 P.M	CLEARWATER Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Social Dinner. See page 4 for details. RSVP
12-15, 3 rd Sunday, 11AM	BRANDON CFI Skeptics in the Pub	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
12-07, 4 th Saturday, 10:30 AM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE – Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. RSVP Details: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
12-09, Every last Monday, 6 PM	N. Pinellas Area CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here <i>before noon, Dec 8th.</i> http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
12 - TBA, see Web site	S. PINELLAS – Humanist film Meetup	Feature film TBA RSVP at : http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
12-07, Sunday, 12:30 PM	CLEARWATER – UU Humanists,	will be speaking
12-14, Saturday, 7 PM	St. Petersburg Astronomy Club	Details, location, & and RSVP to : www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club
see Web site	BRADENTON - Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. See page 13 /www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa October: Annual Humanists at Disney in Orlando. https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/
see Web site	SARASOTA – Humanists of Sarasota Bay	Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html
12-13 & 14 Friday & Saturday Evening	TAMPA - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club	See Website : www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi for all details.

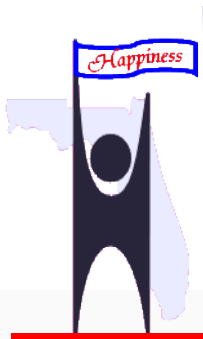


Organizers of these events will be most grateful to all who have the courtesy to RSVP for those events that require it.

Watch for major COR events coming up!

December 7th - **Winterfest** -  Celebration : a potluck at Clearwater UUC

February 8th, 2014 - **Darwin Day** with Special Guest Daniel Dennett, one of America's leading intellectuals.
Buy Tickets now (\$30) to "CoR" via CFI R, O'Keefe 4011 S. Manhattan Ave. #139 Tampa, FL 33612-1277



The Humanist Society³ of the Suncoast News

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

Notice! Our December meeting will be the Winterfest/Humanlight Pot luck described on the first page. Our regular discussions will resume in January at the usual time and place.

Religious Privilege Disguised as Religious Freedom



From...

On Nov. 26th, the Supreme Court announced that it will hear arguments in two cases regarding the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act, which requires all employers, apart from houses of worship, to provide or arrange coverage for birth control without charging a co-payment.

In *Hobby Lobby*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit held that the plaintiff, a for-profit chain of arts supply stores owned by devout Christians, had shown a significant likelihood of success in proving its "right" to religious free exercise was substantially burdened by the requirements of the mandate. By contrast, in *Conestoga Wood Specialties*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit found no such likelihood of success for a similarly situated for-profit corporation, also owned by a religious family.

These cases are of the utmost significance. They are not just about the legality of part of the "Obamacare" legislation. The Supreme Court also faces a decision of incredible magnitude regarding the degree to which religious belief can be used as a means of avoiding legal obligations, and, even more critically, whether for-profit corporations can possess the right to free exercise of religion which has throughout the history of the United States been seen as a right for individuals. [continued here](#).



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

An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. As reactionaries in congress vote to cut the budget for food stamps and other key supports, there is increasing hunger here in our community. Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food (before the expiration dates) or checks for TBH. Thanks to *Glenn Paul*, chair

Tampa Bay Harvest

Please join us for
our next free and
open discussion.

**Saturday,
January 4th.
2014**

**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,

Volume 21 No. 12 December, 2013

PARKING LOTS: RED, YELLOW AND BLUESY
By Lula Dovi 2013

Malicious mix of cars and carts
drivers and walkers
in our jammed-up parking lots.

Curses on those architects
of concrete curbs and medians
jutting sidewalks
that clamp their jaws on hub-caps
bite our tires and fenders
bumpers slung too low.

Morass of motorized morons
some errant walkers
mix it up with yellow speed bumps
halt-red stop signs.



Letters from our Best Writers

Knowledge Goes Deeper than Smartphone

Daniel Sarewitz ably discusses the modern obsession with instant information offered by smartphones. There is an inevitable caveat expressed by the happily cynical English poet Alexander Pope: "A little learning is a dangerous thing; drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring."

This brings us to the sobering question: Who is providing the instant information so grandly appreciated by all users? Sarewitz mentions the luxury of reading a condensed *War and Peace*, but someone read it and wrote the condensed version.

In the future, all smartphone users will be intellectually at the mercy of a small cadre of those with vast, rich knowledge and who therefore have the power to prevail.

Do we dare to risk that? It's all very well to enjoy the bliss of ignorance, of superficial knowledge. What of those who "drink deep" of the Pierian spring?
Abigail Ann Martin, Brandon TB Times 11-13

Critical thinking

Perhaps the professor who was reprimanded for the toilet comparison could have used a different example, but the response shows what is wrong with our schools, and society in general, by censoring anything objectionable to a party or group. Such actions squelch criticism and critical thinking.

The comparison did accomplish one good goal he had not intended: It got media attention about censorship in our school system.

Frank Prahl, St. Petersburg TB Times 10-31



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The Movable Feast: the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner

Country Harvest

Our December social dinner will be held at the Country Harvest restaurant at **5:00PM on Sunday December 15th.**

This restaurant is located at **1285 South Missouri Avenue in Clearwater** about a mile plus south of G-T-B on the east side of Missouri.

They have a wide variety of offerings in the \$8 -12 range with a full alcohol bar.

Please make your reservations with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or reply by email: kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com by Saturday, December 14th.

Laugh Lines

12-13

WOULD A FLY WITHOUT WINGS BE CALLED
A WALK?

WHY DO THEY LOCK GAS STATION BATH
ROOMS? ARE THEY AFRAID SOMEONE WILL
BREAK-IN AND CLEAN THEM?

IF A TURTLE DOESN'T HAVE A SHELL, IS HE
HOMELESS OR NAKED?

CAN VEGETARIANS EAT ANIMAL CRACKERS?

IF THE POLICE ARREST A MUTE, DO THEY
TELL HIM HE HAS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN
SILENT?

WHY DO THEY PUT BRAILLE ON THE DRIVE-
THROUGH BANK MACHINES?

HOW DO THEY GET DEER TO CROSS THE
ROAD ONLY AT THOSE YELLOW ROAD SIGNS?

WHAT WAS THE BEST THING BEFORE SLICED
BREAD?

ONE NICE THING ABOUT EGOTISTS: THEY
DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.

Thanks to: *Connie Purdum*

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

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Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,
Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

~*~*~*~*~*~

Jordan Williams, Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com



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.

Tampa Humanist Association



Tentative next meeting:

Saturday, **January 18th**, 2014, 11:00 PM

Look for the Tampa Humanist Assoc. sign in the lobby.

We expect that space at the Jimmie B. Keele Library will again be available as construction is being completed.

Watch this space next month for more information as we look forward to an expanding future.



Celebrate Human Light

This December 7th



HumanLight illuminates Humanism's positive secular vision of reason, compassion and hope, as each of 3 candles symbolizes.

The goal is to bring a future in which all people can identify with each other, behave with the highest moral standards, and work together toward a happy, just and peaceful world. Festivities include standard winter holiday traditions, incorporating the values of education, equality, unity and good will.

The Yule tree is replaced with the Tree of Knowledge. Science shows, storytelling, donating to food banks, volunteering, and dinner with family and friends are part of the celebration throughout the world.

This video shows ways to celebrate reason, compassion and hope during HumanLight:

Life Ring Secular Recovery

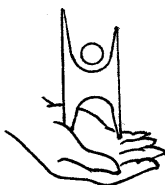
This group meets every Monday evening at 8p.m., at Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church at 2817 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater. The meeting takes place in a modular building at the back of the parking lot.

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.

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



~ *Join* ~

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



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:

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

Humanist Quotes

“Give to every human being every right that you claim for your-self.”

– Robert Green Ingersoll, *The Gods*, 1876



Atheists of Florida



Atheism sprinting into the future!

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**: Write Athaihle@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 first meeting of every quarter (Jan., April, July, October) is a potluck; the address information is available only to members of our **Meetup** since it is usually in a private home.

December

Join us on Tuesday Dec 17th at 7pm. **To hear Jerry Dewitt at the Florida Atheists headquarters, 5103 S West Shore Blvd, Tampa, FL** Jerry DeWitt's ministry began when he was 17. After pastoring of two fundamentalist congregations, he became an atheist. DeWitt serves on the Board of Directors for the Clergy Project. **Book signing, discussion follows the lecture.** See [Pg. 12](#)

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others.

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.

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.

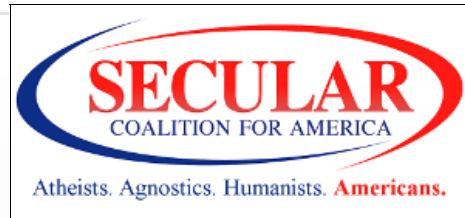


Bank of Wisdom
Electronic publishing to make the world better

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

The Secular Coalition for America has announced a strategic partnership between the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science U.S. and top leadership of the Secular Coalition for America, through the remainder of 2013.

The partnership aims to maximize the strengths of both organizations-drawing on the Secular Coalition's strong nonprofit and strategic planning experience and the Dawkins Foundation's strong web and social media savvy, scientific expertise, and broad outreach. For more information about this exciting new partnership, [click here](#).

Tune in for the best 30 minutes in secularism! The weekly National Movement Call is taking a break this month, but will be back in September. Call in every Thursday at 12:00 pm EST to get all the latest news in our movement from the movers and shakers themselves.



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 organization is open to anyone of any religious persuasion or personal beliefs. Write [Rodrick Colbert](#) or freethinkersusf@gmail.com.

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

UU Humanists will have as their monthly meeting in December, the Winterfest Potluck on page 1 of this issue.



Clearwater, Florida

Unitarian-Universalists of Clearwater on 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater.

See you there!



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."

"...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

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU Supporter,



The Hillsborough County Commissioners are considering changing the way that the voters are represented, and they need to hear from you in support of fairer, single-member district plans. More single-member districts would mean better representation of the needs of our diverse county and make it easier for the citizens to have their voices heard.

People Over Politics



The Humanities Institute of USF Florida 2013 Poetry Competition

This year the Humanities Institute ran its first poetry contest and we will be presenting the finalists throughout the month of April. High school students and USF students, faculty, and staff submitted over 100 poems on this year's theme: "Florida 2013."

The top three poets in both the High School and USF categories will receive special awards presented by Jorie Graham at her reading on April 2. 15 high school poets and 5 USF poets were selected as finalists and will have their poems featured on the NPM@USF website. New poems will be posted Monday - Friday.

Check back during the week to read each poem.

Secular Coalition for America President, David Niose Wednesday presented oral arguments to the Massachusetts Supreme Court, as the attorney for the plaintiff in the case "Doe v. Acton-Boxborough Regional School District." The case challenges a state law that requires daily school-sponsored and teacher-led classroom recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Niose, on behalf of his client, argued that the wording "under God" in the Pledge discriminates against atheists and other nonbelievers, by instilling and defining patriotism according to a god belief.



Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



TBPPC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.
Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more. 10/13

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

The Climate-PR Puzzle

If we hope to avert climate apocalypse in the decades ahead, we must make fundamental changes to industrial society. Before those changes can be approved and implemented, citizens and policy makers must first come to understand they are essential to our survival. Public relations—the management of the spread of information between an individual or organization and the public—will be an unavoidably necessary tool in the process.

But a PR message capable of persuading policy makers and citizens to end society's environmental rampage remains elusive. Let's start with what needs to be conveyed.

Energy is the biggest single issue facing us as a species.*

Global warming—by far the worst environmental challenge humans have ever confronted—results from our current fossil-fuel energy regime, and averting catastrophic climate change will require us to end our reliance on coal, oil, and natural gas. Ocean acidification is also a consequence of burning fossil fuels, and most other environmental crises (like nitrogen runoff pollution and most air pollution) can be traced to the same source.

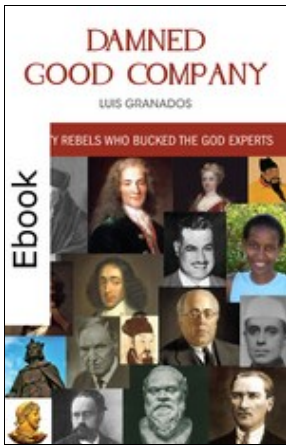
Therefore ending our addiction to fossil fuels is essential if we want future generations of humans (and countless other species) to inherit a habitable planet. But these energy sources are "unsustainable" also in a more basic, economic sense of the term: oil, gas, and coal are depleting, non-renewable resources. Already, depletion of the easy-and-cheap sources of petroleum that drove economic growth in the 20th century has led to persistently high oil prices, which are a drag on the economy. We have picked the low-hanging fruit of the world's petroleum resources, and as time goes on *all* sources of fossil energy will become more financially costly and environmentally risky to extract. This is a big problem because the economy is 100 percent dependent on energy. With lots of cheap energy, problems of all kinds are easy to solve (running out of fresh water? Just build a desalination plant!); when energy becomes expensive and hard to get, problems multiply and converge.

One way or another, whether our concern is climate, the environment or economic growth, it's mostly about energy.

Richard Heinberg, Senior fellow, Post Carbon Institute

Learn more about these issues. The Post Carbon Council (above) provides many links to fuller understanding. JP

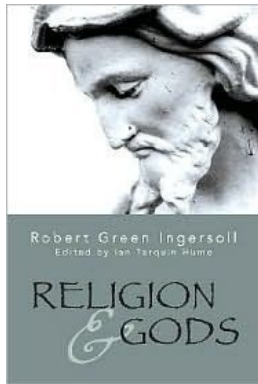
The Humanist Press



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.](#)

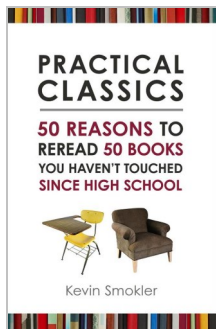


Amid the 21st century's escalating religious tensions, Robert Green Ingersoll's views on the substance of religion and gods offer a firm foundation of logic and independent thought leading to a life examined and a life of happiness free of the shackles of religion. **Prometheus**

Pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

Evolve Fish

<http://evolvefish.com/>



Prometheus Press

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

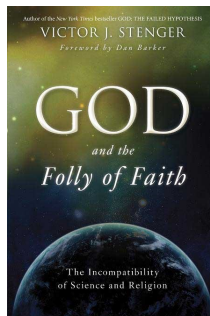
A canon of contemporary literature that will re-illuminate our time and your life.

\$18.00 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!

Latest books from the Matt Cooper Humanist Library.

Humanist Society members (only) can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to Marios Psomas at: marios_psomas@hotmail.com. Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!**

TITLE

1. The Expanding Circle
2. In Gods we Trust
3. Why Evolution is True
4. The Second World
5. Denialism
6. The Selfish Gene
7. Democracy Incorporated
8. The Upside Irrationality
9. The End of Growth
10. The God Delusion
11. All That We Share
12. Sex, Time, and Power
13. Sex at Dawn
14. What liberal Media
15. The End of Faith
16. Plan B
17. The Portable Atheist
18. Open Society
19. Non Believer Nation
20. God on Trial
21. Natural Experiments of History
22. The Missionary Position
23. Life Inc.
24. A brief History of Time
25. Breaking the Spell
26. The Philosophy of Humanism
27. The Quotable Atheist
28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God. G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About Rest of World. Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
35. What the Dog Saw
36. Sway
37. The Better Angels of our Nature
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded
40. Gaming the Vote
41. Subversion Fable
43. Evolution and the Big Question
44. Why People Believe Weird Things
45. The World is Curved
46. The Snow Ball
47. The Moral Landscape
48. How We Believe
49. Full House
50. The Origins of Political Order

AUTHOR

Peter Singer
 Scott Atran
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 Panag Khanna
 Michael Specter
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 Sheldon Wolin
 Dan Ariely
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 Leonard Shlain
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 Lester Brown
 Christopher Hitchens
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 John Fund
 Darrel Ray
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 David Friedman
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 Thomas Friedman
 William Poundstone
 Alexa KcKearing
 David Stamos
 Michael Shermer
 David Snick
 Warren Buffett
 Sam Harris
 Michael Shermer
 Steven Jay Gould
 Francis Fukuyama

NEW!

51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
 52. Autobiography of Mark Twain
 53. Science Friction
 54. Genius
 55. Inevitable Illusions
 56. Sex & God
 57. Me of little Faith
- And More...
- Isaac Asimov
 Harriet Smith, Editor
 Michael Shermer
 James Gleick
 Piatrelli & Palmarini
 Darryl Ray
 Lewis Black

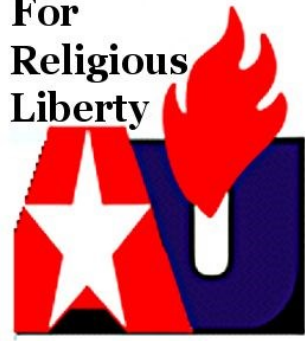
Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

[Virginia Kohl-Lieberman](#), AHA certified

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, 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 (Retired) 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.

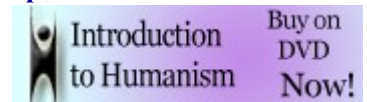
Jennifer is author of several books including; *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP
See much more at: www.Jen-Hancock.com,

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/>

Thinking is Hard



Thinking isn't easy. In fact, thinking well is one of the hardest of the Humanist life skills to learn. It doesn't help that when we need to think the clearest, our emotions get in the way.

I am convinced this is why every major religion and philosophy throughout the entire history of humanity has preached compassion. It is why most Humanist agree that compassion is the proper basis of ethics. It works.

Compassion works to calm our minds so we can think more clearly. It helps us frame our interpersonal problems in a way that helps us better solve them. It helps us to exercise self control when we should and it helps us to find the courage to act when we must.

Because compassion and the ability to calm our minds is so critical to our success as critical thinkers, I have asked Rick Heller of the Humanist Mindfulness Group at Harvard to teach **an introductory course on Humanist Meditation**. This is an important skill to learn. If you have been wondering whether meditation might be right for you, come and join us.

Members like you get 30% off the registration

Resources to help you through the Holidays

The holidays can be stressful for many Humanists. Especially those with religious relatives where tensions may run high.

To help, here is an interview I did with John Tesh (yes, that John Test) on dealing with religious relatives over the holidays <http://buff.ly/1hL2AW5>

Why the application of Humanist principles can help us achieve a good give and take that is the hallmark of a good conversation. <http://buff.ly/1i5qycb>

Jennifer Hancock



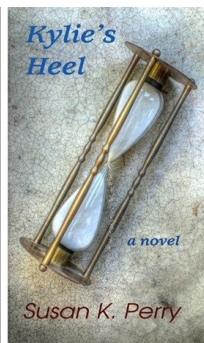
No Local chapters. See <http://www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.net/>

ISHV has great interest in promoting good science and ethical values worldwide. To that end, we have forged strong bonds with humanist leaders and organizations in several nations. For humanists in developing nations, we have offered technical expertise by providing them with Websites. We have made literature and speakers available to them, publicized their events on our Website, helped them raise funding, etc. Members of our leadership team have traveled to Paris, Moscow, Ontario, Manila, and Africa to lecture on the philosophy of secular humanism and present a vigorous defense of science. We currently have global affiliates around the world in locations such as Tanzania, London, Iceland, Nigeria, Philippines, Gambia, the Caribbean, South Africa, Indonesia, Afghanistan, and India.

One of our most important international contacts has been one we have established with Leo Igwe, Africa's leading humanist activist. Igwe has tirelessly fought against superstition, homophobia, sexism and other forms of intolerance. He has defended children that have been victimized by faith healers, witch hunters and other religious fanatics. ISHV has helped raise funding for Igwe's education and research in Germany. Part of his work includes research into witchcraft beliefs and practices in Africa.

the Humanist Hour

Four Humanist Press Authors



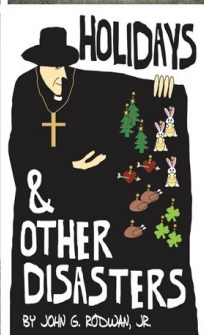
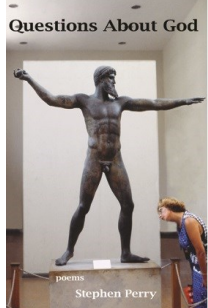
In [this month's show](#), co-hosts Todd Stiefel and Kim Ellington interview four of our latest Humanist Press authors, including:
Susan K. Perry, author of *Kylie's Heel*
Stephen Perry, author of *Questions About God*

John G. Rodwan, Jr., author of *Holidays & Other Disasters* and
Laury A. Egan, author of *The Outcast Oracle*

Listen as Todd, Kim, and our authors discuss, among other things, how each author incorporates humanist ideas into their work and why writing from a humanist perspective matters.

[Click here to learn more and listen to The Humanist Hour interview with our latest Humanist Press authors.](#)

Subscribe to The Humanist Hour on [iTunes](#) or [RSS](#).



[Mississippi High School Student Victorious in Lawsuit Challenging School's Religious Assemblies](#)

November 26, 2013 – Administrators of Northwest Rankin County High School found to have violated the Establishment Clause of the US Constitution.

[Humanists File Suit over Weekly Prayers in Missouri High School Classroom](#)

November 20, 2013 – The AHLC has filed suit today against school officials in Fayette, MO, demanding an end to teacher sponsored and school-promoted classroom prayer at Fayette High School.

[South Carolina Elementary School Asked to Cut Ties With Evangelical "Samaritan's Purse" Program](#)

November 13, 2013 – Administrators at a South Carolina public elementary school have agreed to end participation in Operation Christmas Child, an evangelical christian program.

["Colorado Day of Prayer" Opposed in American Humanist Association Amicus Brief Filing](#)

November 7, 2013 – The American Humanist Association filed an amicus brief with the Colorado Supreme Court in support of a lower court ruling that declared the governor's "Colorado Day of Prayer" proclamations unconstitutional.

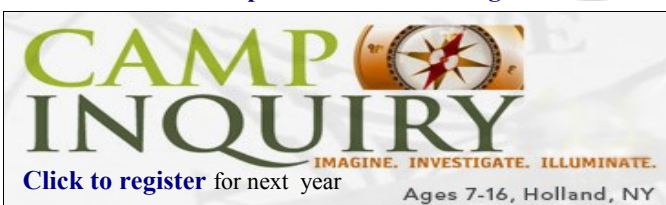
[AHA Files Amicus Brief in Town of Greece v. Galloway Supreme Court Case](#)

November 5, 2013 – The AHA is urging the Supreme Court to uphold a lower court decision that keeps the town of Greece, NY away from religious endorsement supported with exclusively Christian prayers during council meetings.

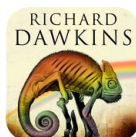
Find out more about end of life issues.

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> or www.compassionandchoices.org

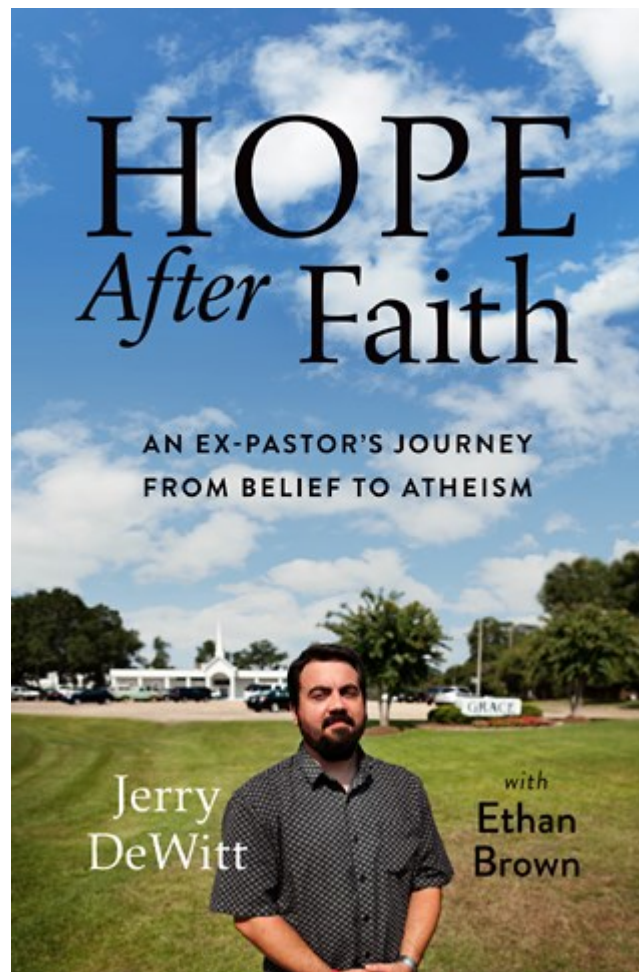


Compassion & Choices
Choice & Care at the End of Life.



The Magic of Reality

Download it to your I-pad to experience this award winning multi media book.



Meet ***Jerry DeWitt*** on Tuesday Dec 17th at 7pm. at the Florida Atheists headquarters, 5103 S West Shore Blvd in Tampa.

Book signing and discussion will follow his lecture.

This is a former Louisiana pastor's courageous memoir chronicling his conversion to atheism. Atheism's leading lights have long been intellectuals raised in the secular and academic worlds: Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and the late Christopher Hitchens. By contrast, Jerry DeWitt was born and bred into the church and was in fact a Pentecostal preacher before arriving at atheism through an extraordinary dialogue with faith that spanned more than a quarter of a century.

Hope After Faith is his account of that journey.

DeWitt was a pastor in the town of DeRidder, Louisiana, and was a fixture of the community. In private, however, he'd begun to question his faith. Late one night in May 2011, a member of his flock called seeking prayer for her brother who had been in a serious accident. As DeWitt searched for the right words to console her, speech failed him, and he found that the faith which once had formed the cornerstone of his life had finally crumbled to dust. When it became public knowledge that DeWitt was now an atheist, he found himself shunned by much of DeRidder's highly religious community, losing nearly everything he'd known. DeWitt's struggle for identity and meaning mirrors the one currently facing millions of people around the world. With both agnosticism and atheism entering the mainstream—one in five Americans now claim no religious affiliation according to a recent study—the moment has arrived for a new atheist voice, one that is respectful of faith and religious traditions yet warmly embraces a life free of religion, finding not skepticism and cold doubt but rather profound meaning and hope.

Hope After Faith is the story of one man's evolution toward a committed and considered atheism, one driven by humanism, a profound moral dimension, and a happiness and self-confidence obtained through living free of fear.



THE COMMON MORAL DECENCIES, *What We Share With Others*

Personal Integrity: telling the truth, being sincere, keeping promises, being honest.
 Trustworthiness: loyal, dependable, reliable, responsible.
 Benevolence: goodwill, lack of malice (do not harm other persons; do not kill or rob, inflict injury, be cruel or vengeful); in sexual relations: mutual consent (between adults only); beneficent: sympathetic and compassionate, lend a helping hand, contribute positively to the welfare of others. Fairness: accountability, gratitude, justice (equality), tolerance of others, cooperation, negotiate differences peacefully, without hatred or violence.



Rick O'Keefe

THE ETHICAL EXCELLENCES, *Our Responsibilities to Ourselves*

Autonomy, Intelligence, Self-discipline, Self-respect, Creativity, High motivation,
 Affirmative attitude, Joie de vivre, Good health, Exuberance

Created by Paul Kurtz

Secular Humanists base their lives on ethics, reason, and enjoying the good life. We live once and do our best to leave the world a better place than we find it.

The Center for Inquiry is a transnational nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that encourages evidence-based inquiry into science, pseudoscience, medicine and health, religion, ethics, secularism, and society. The Center provides rational ethical alternatives to the reigning paranormal and religious systems of belief, and develops communities where like-minded individuals can meet and share experiences. See Calendar on page 2 for CFI events.



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**.

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**?



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
 Sarasota, Florida

Calendar of Upcoming main events:

December 2: Barbara Zdrevecky, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood—The status of women's reproductive rights.

January 6: Mote Marine Presentation.

February 3: Jeremy Wallace, Political Correspondent for the Sarasota Herald Tribune—Update on the legislative session and the bills before it.

March 3: Dr. Douglas Chismar, Professor, Ringling College of Art and Design—Dangerous Ideas.

April 7: Humanist Panel—Composed of members from HUSBAY regarding the Nature of Humanism.

For more detailed information, see the HusBay [website](#):

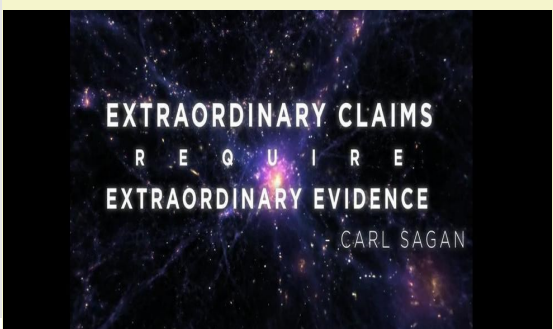
Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the Humane use of technology.
 And always, there is the occasional random act of Kindness.

Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Dave 'Doc' Dockery President,

Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org

We repair our members computers!





<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

- **2013 International Year of Water Cooperation** (UN)
December is National Write a Friend Month

- 1st **World Aids Awareness Day**
- 6th. **Put on Your Own Shoes Day** (personal achievements!)
- 10th **Human Rights Day**
- 15th **Bill of Rights Day**
- 16th **Beethoven’s Birthday (1770)**
- 16th **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day**
- 23rd **Festivus - for the rest of us.**



TBCoR Leadership Team 2013

Mark Brandt, Chris Brown, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O’Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas
UUCH MAF TBHF CFI HSS, TBPCC AoF

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.