



# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News

Volume 3 No. 2 February 2014 Jim Peterson,

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Rick O'Keefe

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Jim Peterson

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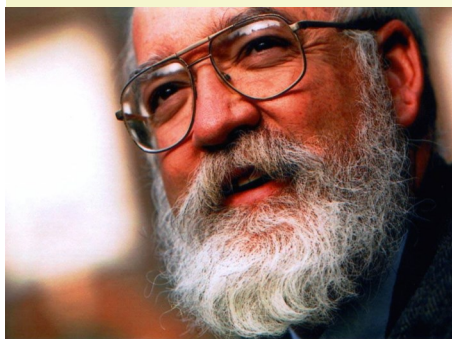
[Jim Peterson](#)

#### Special Projects

Mark Brandt

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason celebrates

## Darwin Day - The Triumph of Humanity in Reason



### Daniel Dennett

### Other distinguished speakers:

*Dr. Ryan Cragun PhD* of the University of Tampa, will provide an often humorous overview of the logical fallacies and factual errors of anti-Darwinian arguments.



*Michael Hoffman, MD*, a neurological scientist and surgeon from Sarasota, will discuss the physical evolution of the human brain and recent discoveries in brain science, with implications for the future of our species.

## The Evolutionary Route to the Human Mind

Evolution is everywhere. Despite the best efforts of the most conservative and reactionary among us, we cannot stop changing. We are too dynamic. Our restive brains, consumed with curiosity though ambivalent about what we may find, surges closer and closer to an ever more refined and comprehensive understanding of our universe and ourselves. As we reach out to trace the nature of distant stars we are increasingly brought to realize that we are looking into the face of our own genesis.

From inert gases to human intelligence is a long journey in the unending evolution of matter, but it is one that we have made. And amidst the enormity of the problems we have created for ourselves and the pervasive cynicism about the human prospect that envelops the current conversation, we may lose sight of the power and possibility of the human being.

Dennett, Cragun, and Hoffman, will provide us with an appreciation of who and what we are, and what we may become.

One of the world's most important living philosophers, **Daniel Dennett**, is best known for his provocative and controversial arguments. He, along with Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris became known as the **four horsemen** of "the new atheism."

He is credited with uncovering important aspects of the nature of consciousness the origins of which lie deep in the Paleozoic formation of early life on earth. In common human thinking and behavior lie the roots of much deeper questions about the nature and quality of our civilization.

If we are to have a future, the essence of that future will lie within the understanding of our present and its genesis in the past. Daniel Dennett offers us an opportunity to grasp the tools of our survival, not in scientific terms alone, but in the broader context of the ways of life afforded by a life of knowledge. JP

**Dr. Dennett, is scheduled to be TBCoR's keynote speaker on Darwin Day- February 8th 2014 at the UUC Octagon 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater . Tickets @ \$35 are on sale from many of our constituent organizations. See: [www.evolvetampa.com/](http://www.evolvetampa.com/) Call: (727) 733-7855 or, (813) 505-7013.**



**HUMANIST CHARITIES**

[Click to connect!](#)

## Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – February, 2014 Calendar

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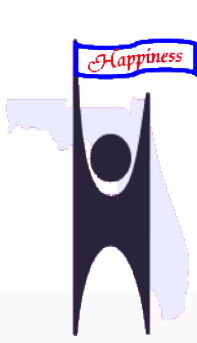
This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where .... We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.

<p>2-8, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 10:30 AM Darwin Day</p>	<p><b>CLEARWATER</b>– UU Octagon The Humanist Society of the Suncoast</p>	<p>To get the details: <b>See page 3</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/">http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/</a></p>	
<p>2-8, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 10:30 AM Darwin Day</p>	<p><b>CLEARWATER</b>– UU Octagon Atheists of Florida</p>	<p>Details &amp; to <b>RSVP</b>: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/</a></p>	
<p>2-09, Sunday, 7 PM</p>	<p><b>BRANDON</b>– Brandon Atheists</p>	<p>Skeptics in the Pub. <b>RSVP</b>. <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/</a></p>	
<p>2-17, Monday, 7 PM 2-22 Saturday 3 PM</p>	<p><b>NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD</b>– Tampa Bay Thinkers Annual Lettuce Lake Park Picnic</p>	<p>Lively philosophical discussion. <b>RSVP at Web site:</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/</a> <b>RSVP</b></p>	
<p>2-22, 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>TAMPA</b>– North Tampa Library Tampa Humanist Association</p>	<p>Topic: “Root of All Evil “ Film by Rivhard Dawkins <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/">http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/</a></p>	
<p>1-11 Saturday, 5 P.M</p>	<p><b>CLEARWATER</b> Humanist Society of the Suncoast</p>	<p>Special Memorial FOR Matt Cooper. <b>Memb. Only!</b> See <a href="#">page 4</a> for details. RSVP</p>	
<p>2-16, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 3 PM</p>	<p><b>BRANDON</b> CFI Skeptics in the Pub</p>	<p>Lunch &amp; discussion. Click to <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a></p>	
<p>2-25, 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 12 noon</p>	<p><b>NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE</b>– Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)</p>	<p>Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. <b>RSVP</b> Details: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a></p>	
<p>2-17, Every last Monday, 6 PM</p>	<p><b>N. Pinellas Area</b> CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper</p>	<p><b>RSVP is required</b> if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here <i>before</i> midnight, January 25th. <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a></p>	
<p>1 - TBA, see <a href="#">Web site</a></p>	<p><b>S. PINELLAS</b>– Humanist film Meetup</p>	<p>Feature film TBA RSVP at: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/</a></p>	
<p>2-8, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 10:30 AM Darwin Day</p>	<p><b>CLEARWATER</b>– UU Humanists,</p>	<p><b>Darwin Day Event see page 1</b></p>	
<p>2-tba, Saturday, 7 PM</p>	<p><b>St. Petersburg Astronomy Club</b></p>	<p>Details, location, &amp; and RSVP to: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club">www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club</a></p>	
<p>2-01 Sat. 4 PM Myakka State Park 2-15 Sat. 11 AM Ybor City, Tampa  see <a href="#">Web site</a></p>	<p><b>BRADENTON</b> - Humanist Families of Tampa</p> <p><b>SARASOTA</b> – Humanists of Sarasota Bay</p>	<p>Family outings and other activities. See page 13 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa">/www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa</a> October: Annual Humanists at Disney in Orlando. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/">https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/</a></p> <p>Many events: Details: Web site <a href="http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html">http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html</a></p>	
<p>2-14 &amp; 22 Friday &amp; Saturday Evening</p>	<p><b>TAMPA</b> - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club</p>	<p>See <b>Website</b> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi">www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi</a> for all details.</p>	

### Watch for our major CoR event this month!

Saturday, February 8th, 2014 - **Darwin Day** with Renowned Writer, **Daniel Dennett**, one of America’s leading analysts of the nature of consciousness, and other scientists - see page 1.

Buy Tickets now (\$35) to “CoR” via CFI - R. O'Keefe (813) 505-7013.



# The Humanist Society<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)

Volume 22 No. 2 February, 2014

Now is the Time to

~ **Join or Renew** ~

*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 (See [pg. 5](#))**



*If new, please fill out the form;  
if renewing just indicate your name and any changes  
from our previous information. Thanks!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address -if new : \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \* \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Privacy respected)*

Send tax deductible dues to:

Marios Psomas, Treasurer

Humanist Society of the Suncoast

1013 Connecticut Rd

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689



\*= optional

**The New Christian Charity** by John Rafferty

The Holier-than-Thou citizens of the fundamentalist Religious Right in America seem to have discovered a new enemy. Hundreds of fake \$10 bills are showing up all across the Bible Belt, left on tables in lieu of a genuine tip. On their face, they look like the real thing (*Ten bucks at Papa John's or Cracker Barrel? Good tip!*), but the reverse says: "*Some things are better than money ... like your eternal salvation that was bought and paid for by Jesus going to the cross.*" Yeah, and some things are better than sanctimonious puffery And at the top of that list would be enough money at the end of an eight- or ten-hour mind-numbing and footsore shift (I know, I've been a waiter) to feed and clothe the waitress's kids. Of course she could always pay forward that \$10 bill. The next time she's in church, drop it in the collection plate. (Item from R.O.)

## Our February meeting will be on Darwin Day... Saturday February 8th, at 10:30 at UUC!

In recent years, Dennett has become outspoken in his atheism, and his 2006 book *Breaking the Spell* calls for religion to be studied through the scientific lens of evolutionary biology. Dennett regards religion as a natural -- rather than supernatural -- phenomenon, and urges schools to break the taboo against empirical examination of religion. He argues that religion's influence over human behavior is precisely what makes gaining a rational understanding of it so necessary: "If we don't understand religion, we're going to miss our chance to improve the world in the 21st century."

A prolific writer, Dennett's landmark books include *The Mind's I*, co-edited with Douglas Hofstadter, *Consciousness Explained*, and *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*. Read an excerpt from his new book, *Intuition Pumps*, in the [Guardian](#)

On March 1st...

Hear Dave 'Doc' Dockery on *Further thoughts on the future of our species*

Doc, who is president of the Tampa Bay Computer Society has agreed to share some of his perspectives on where we are going. He will expand further on the themes developed in our Darwin Day presentation. With his unique understanding of technology and the significant role it plays in our lives, he will address such topics as machine 'consciousness' and our growing codependency on our own creations.

Our discussion will take place at the usual time and place: 2 P.M. in the Countryside library, 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. 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,  
February 8th.  
2014  
at 10:30 AM:**

Lunch is included with  
the \$35 admission

**UUC Octagon  
2470 Nursery Rd.  
in Clearwater**



*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

# Pizza Shack

Our February social lunch will be held at the Pizza Shack on **Sunday, February 16th at 5:00PM**. Fine Italian cuisine is featured at reasonable prices. Many in our group have liked their Italian dishes in the past.

This restaurant is located at **11963 Indian Rocks Rd** just a block north of Walsingham Rd in Largo - about 1 1/2 miles east of Gulf Blvd across from an old Publix in a small strip center.

Please contact Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email at [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com) for reservations by Saturday February 15th.

## Laugh Lines

2-14

**Birds of a feather flock together . . . and then  
poop on your car.**

**A penny saved is a government oversight.**

**The older you get, the tougher it is to lose  
weight, because by then your body and your fat  
have gotten to be really good friends.**

**The easiest way to find something lost  
around the house is to buy a replacement.**

**He who hesitates... is probably right.**

**Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals  
for forty (40) are XL.**

**If you can smile when things go wrong, you  
have someone in mind to blame.**

**The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so  
he can tell when he's really in trouble..**

**Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words  
'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs...'**

**Aging:**

**Eventually you will reach a point when you stop  
lying about your age and start bragging about it.**

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

**Lois Fries, Secretary**  
**Anita Garcia**  
**Dave Kovar, Vice President**  
**Beth Maxie**  
**Jim Peterson, President**  
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Paul, Don Acenbrach Dec., Jackie  
Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,  
Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~

**Jordan Williams, Publisher.**  
**Jim Peterson, Editor**  
E-Mail us at:  
[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto: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, **February 22th**, 2014, 11:00 AM

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

We will be trying out our **new venue** at:

### The North Tampa Public Library

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

We will show the film, "**Root of all Evil**" with *Richard Dawkins*. After the film, we will have a general and open discussion of what we have seen.



## A Progressive Headquarters for The Tampa Bay area

It has long been a dream for those of us who have struggled to advance the cause of Humanism, critical thinking, environmental awareness, compassionate social policies, and a defense of art, music, and science, to have a real building; a central office in our area.

With the move of AoF from it's current location, comes a new opportunity for our organizations to organize a new cooperative, based on the Coalition of Reason, and dedicated to providing a foundation for a more powerful response to the problems of our world.

Such a building would provide office facilities, meeting space, and storage for equipment and materials for all the constituent organizations.

It will be as close to being a central location as possible; just south of the airport and easily accessible to the interstate, veterans expressway, and State rd. 60.

To make this dream come true, we need organizational subscriptions and a team of local individual supporters willing to make a small pledge.

Humanism is a way of life, and a commitment to the success of our species. We need concrete institutions to create a sustainable base for the realization of our aspirations.

This is an idea still in the early stages of discussion. If you would like to contribute in any way; whether ideas or financing, please let us know. JP

## Laurel & Hardy Fans?

Our local Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the Desert fan club is as active as ever, and in need of new recruits as well as the return of old ones.

Wednesday Feb 19th is the next get together at the Pinellas Park Library at 7. See the web site for more: [www.metrodirect.net/Laurel&hardy/](http://www.metrodirect.net/Laurel&hardy/)



## 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 Eckstein (813) 891-9399
- ◆ Jerry Moore (727) 455-4973
- ◆ Nan Owens (727) 424-2558



## Humanist Quotes

“ The present is the necessary product of all the past,  
the necessary cause of all the future ”

— Robert Green Ingersoll, *The Gods*, 1876

# Atheists of Florida



***Atheism sprinting into the future!***

**Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins  
Vice President & Treasurer, Nan Owens.  
Chris Brown has been appointed to the board.**

**AoF outreach programs** can be found at our **Meetup** site. Current newsletters are **available: Write Athaifle@aol.com**. JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our **website** and on our **Facebook page**. Our 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.

Join us on **February 8th at 10:30 PM** as we **jopin the celebration of Darwin Day with the noted Philosopher, Daniel Dennett. Find full details elsewhere in this issue.**

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus.

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.

JP



**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

On January 17th, President Obama issued a proclamation on Religious Freedom Day--and for the first time in years he expressly included nonbelievers. "Today, America embraces people of all faiths and of no faith. We are Christians and Jews, Muslims and Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs, atheists and agnostics. [...] What makes us American is our adherence to shared ideals -- freedom, equality, justice, and our right as a people to set our own course," the proclamation read in part.

The president included the nod to nontheists in large part due to a strengthened relationship between the White House and the Secular Coalition for America.

On Monday the Secular Coalition met with White House staff to brief them on our recently released Model Secular Policy Guide, which covers dozens of topics important to the nontheistic community. With the State of the Union address fast approaching on January 28, we have also been working with White House staff to encourage the recognition of nonbelievers and an accurate portrayal of religious liberty in the president's speech.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:bnorsworthy@verizon.net)  
Mark Brandt [mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu)  
Web site: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will be meeting with the rest of the freethought community on Saturday the 8th, Darwin Day, in the Octagon to hear Scientists, Dennett, Cragun and Hoffman. This will be one of the great events on our calendar for this year. See more on Page 1



## 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 is a group dedicated to taking action to bring ALL women into full equality and participation through changing policy, law and culture. This mission attracts women and men of diverse backgrounds and gives us the ability to look at the systemic oppression in our lives and determine actions that will bring about change for all women.

Often, we are contacted by women and men who are facing "legal" situations, or in need of individual help. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide direct services, and for legal reasons we can not provide referrals for lawyers or other services. If you need these services, please consider doing an internet search for local attorneys, referral services, legal aide, domestic violence shelters, or other terms that are appropriate for your individual situation. Good luck.

**"...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,  
Pinellas County Chapter of the ACLU Cordially invites you to join us at our 22 annual **Bill of Rights Banquet**

**Join us on Thursday Evening, March 6th, 2014  
At the Manhattan Casino**

642 22nd St. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 \$45/person  
RSVP by Feb.-25 Call (727) 347-4266 (Leave message)

6 to 7 PM Registration, Social Hour, & Cash Bar  
7 PM Opening Remarks,  
Board Elections, Program, and Dinner.

The Gardner W. Beckett Jr. Civil Liberties Award Recipient:

**Bruce Jacob**

The Irene Miller Vigilance Journalism Award Recipient:

**Bill Maxwell**

Also Honoring **Thom Foley & Paul Pohlman**

**People  
Over Politics**



## The Humanities Institute of USF

**Wednesday, Feb. 5: Julie Langford (History)**

**Maternal Megalomania: Julia Domna and the Imperial Politics of Motherhood. Grace Allen Room (Library) 3:00pm,**

Ancient authors accuse Julia Domna, wife of Roman emperor Septimius Severus (193–211), of ambition unforgivable in a woman, of instigating civil war to place her sons on the throne, and of resorting to incest to maintain her hold on power. In imperial propaganda, however, Julia Domna was honored with unprecedented titles that celebrated her maternity, whether it was in the role of mother to her two sons (both future emperors) or as the metaphorical mother to the empire.

In *Maternal Megalomania*, Julie Langford unmask the maternal titles and honors of Julia Domna as a campaign on the part of the administration to garner support for Severus and his sons. Langford explores how her image was tailored toward different populations, including the military, the Senate, and the people of Rome, and how these populations responded to propaganda about the empress. She employs Julia Domna as a case study to explore the creation of ideology between the emperor and his subjects.

**Challenge, Create, Connect:** Our new motto focuses our commitment to bring the beauty, values, and lessons of the humanities to our community. The USF Humanities Institute, provides a forum where ideas are debated, values are clarified, and students, faculty, and community come together to envision a better world through scholarship, debate, and public programs. We showcase the scholarship of USF faculty from across the disciplines, as well as hosting renowned scholars and sponsoring small conferences and symposia on topics developed with faculty and students. We are strengthening our focus on relevance and community engagement, demonstrating that the joy and challenge of the humanities belong to everyone. [Click here for Our 2014 schedule](#)

# Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

**Tampa Bay CoR**  
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



TBPCC is an autonomous project of the Humanist Society.

## 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](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

New research by a team of scientists looking at the impact of cloud behavior on planetary climate change says that "the worst" and "catastrophic" predictions offered by previous studies on the rate of global warming this century are much more likely than the less severe scenarios offered by others.

According to Dr. Steven Sherwood, lead author of the study and a specialist in climate and cloud formations at the University of New South Wales in Australia, cloud patterns in an increasingly warming world are likely to exacerbate global temperature increases overall, not mitigate warming as some models have suggested.

The research [predicts](#) that global temperatures will likely rise at least 4°C by 2100 and potentially more than 8°C by 2200 if carbon dioxide emissions are not reduced and serious actions by governments and society are not taken.

Such drastic increases, Sherwood told the *Guardian*, would be "catastrophic rather than simply dangerous."

Specifically, the study looked at how already warming temperatures impact the ability of clouds to form at high altitudes, because that ability can greatly impact the way in which large clouds help the planet reflect or absorb the sun's heat.

By tackling that problem, say Sherwood and his colleagues, their research "cracks open one of the biggest problems in climate science."

As the *Sydney Morning Herald* [reports](#):

Will Steffen, an adjunct professor at Australian National University and a member of the Climate Council, said the paper was "right out on the forefront of the sort of research we need to do on clouds".

"The more we get research like from [Professor Sherwood] and his group, the more confidence we'll have in being able to say where in that range [the temperature increase] is likely to fall."

The CO2 level of the atmosphere in 2012 was 393 parts per million, or 41 per cent higher than in pre-industrial times, the World Meteorological Organization said. The level is rising at an accelerating rate - more than two parts per million a year - as humans burn more fossil fuels and cut down forests.

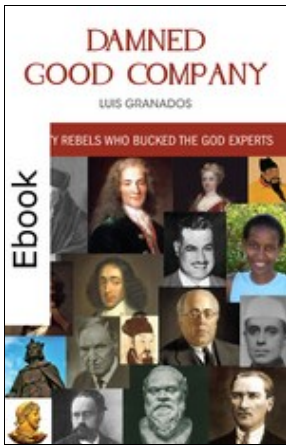
Global temperatures have risen about 0.8 degrees since about 1880, with system lags and air pollution reflecting sunlight partly explaining why the rise has not been higher. "We've been hoping for the best and not planning for the worst," Professor Sherwood said. "And now it's looking like the best is not very likely."

In 2012, a [study by the World Bank](#)—an institution not typically known for sounding the alarm over industrial, human-caused global warming—also said that a 4°C temperature rise was not only possible, but likely if humanity did not change course. According to Kim Yong Kim, the bank's president, the resulting impacts of a planet that warm would likely "make the world our children inherit a completely different world than we are living in today."

Click [www.tampabaypostcarbon.com](http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com) for more. 2/14 JP

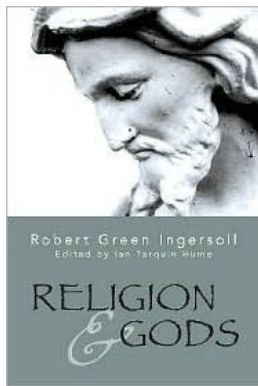


## The Humanist Press



### 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.](#)

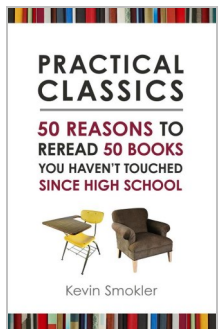


Amid the 21st century's escalating religious tensions, Robert Green Ingersoll's views on the substance of religion and gods offer a firm foundation of logic and independent thought leading to a life examined and a life of happiness free of the shackles of religion. **Prometheus**

Pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

### Evolve Fish

<http://evolvefish.com/>



## Prometheus Press

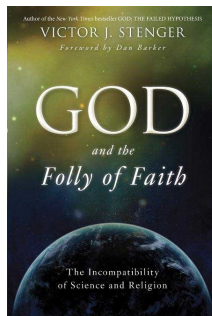
### Practical Classics: 50 Reasons to Reread 50 Books You Haven't Touched Since High School.

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!

## The Matt Cooper

### Memorial 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](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com). Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

#### TITLE

#### AUTHOR

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. The Expanding Circle                                  | Peter Singer            |
| 2. In Gods we Trust                                      | Scott Atran             |
| 3. Why Evolution is True                                 | Jerry Coyne             |
| 4. The Second World                                      | Panag Khanna            |
| 5. Denialism   | Michael Specter         |
| 6. The Selfish Gene                                      | Richard Dawkins         |
| 7. Democracy Incorporated                                | Sheldon Wolin           |
| 8. The Upside Irrationality                              | Dan Ariely              |
| 9. The End of Growth                                     | Richard Heinberg        |
| 10. The God Delusion                                     | Richard Dawkins         |
| 11. All That We Share                                    | Jay Wallgasper          |
| 12. Sex, Time, and Power                                 | Leonard Shlain          |
| 13. Sex at Dawn  | C. Ryan, & C. Jetha     |
| 14. What liberal Media                                   | Eric Alderman           |
| 15. The End of Faith                                     | Sam Harris              |
| 16. Plan B   | Lester Brown            |
| 17. The Portable Atheist                                 | Christopher Hitchens    |
| 18. Open Society   | George Soros            |
| 19. Non Believer Nation                                  | David Niose             |
| 20. God on Trial   | Peter Irons             |
| 21. Natural Experiments of History                       | Diamond-Robinson        |
| 22. The Missionary Position                              | Christopher Hitchens    |
| 23. Life Inc.  | Douglas Rushkoff        |
| 24. A brief History of Time                              | Stephen Hawking         |
| 25. Breaking the Spell                                   | Daniel Dennett          |
| 26. The Philosophy of Humanism                           | Corliss Lamont          |
| 27. The Quotable Atheist                                 | Jack Huberman           |
| 28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God.       | G. Harrison             |
| 29. Mathematics and Politics                             | Alan Taylor             |
| 30. Stealing Elections                                   | John Fund               |
| 31. The God Virus  | Darrel Ray              |
| 32. What Every American Should Know About Rest of World. | Rossi                   |
| 33. Imagine There's no Heaven                            | Editors of Free Inquiry |
| 34. Hidden Order   | David Friedman          |
| 35. What the Dog Saw                                     | Malcom Gladwell         |
| 36. Sway   | Ori, Rom Brafman        |
| 37. The Better Angels of our Nature                      | Steven Pinker           |
| 38. Letter to a Young Contrarian                         | Christopher Hitchens    |
| 39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded                               | Thomas Friedman         |
| 40. Gaming the Vote                                      | William Poundstone      |
| 41. Subversion Fable                                     | Alexa KcKearing         |
| 43. Evolution and the Big Question                       | David Stamos            |
| 44. Why People Believe Weird Things                      | Michael Shermer         |
| 45. The World is Curved                                  | David Snick             |
| 46. The Snow Ball  | Warren Buffett          |
| 47. The Moral Landscape                                  | Sam Harris              |
| 48. How We Believe                                       | Michael Shermer         |
| 49. Full House   | Steven Jay Gould        |
| 50. The Origins of Political Order                       | Francis Fukuyama        |

#### **NEW!**

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

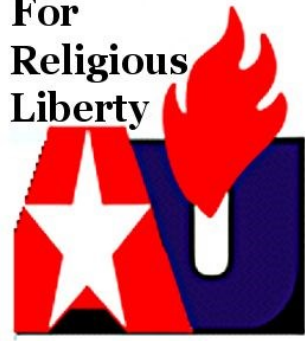
### Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

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](http://www.maaf.info)

Contact: Chris

([christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

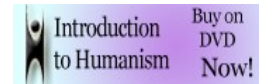
Jennifer is author of several books including; *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP

See much more at: [www.Jen-Hancock.com](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/).



## Why do we Fight?

There was a great article in The Atlantic magazine back in November about the biological foundation of natural morality. As a Humanist, I obviously found the article fascinating. In a nutshell, he says that yes, we are wired for morality and we all have an innate sense of justice and that this is actually pretty uniform around the world. The problem is that we like to think we have different and "better" moral values than other tribes. It's what makes our tribe better than others. And yes, we Humanists do this too - obviously our moral system is better than everyone else's and obviously they should all conform to our way of thinking about morality rationally. That would stop all the conflicts. Except it wouldn't.

According to this author, Robert Wright, a senior fellow at the New America Foundation, the problem is that our sense of justice and morality is tied to our sense that if a wrong has occurred, someone should be punished for it and that our bias to see our tribe as more virtuous than others and this bias prevents us from understanding our own role in conflicts. In other words, when a conflict occurs, we humans tend to think we are right and the other side is wrong and this causes us to develop confirmation bias which helps us find evidence to support our sense of moral outrage and we ignore the evidence that shows that, just maybe, we might have had a hand in the whole affair.

The proposed solution for this isn't to create a new meta-morality that everyone can agree on because, in reality, most moral systems are the same. The solution is apparently to encourage people into meta-cognition - which is to be aware of your own biases when conflict arises and to actively work past your sense of moral outrage to consider your own actions as being, at least somewhat, partially causal. In other words, doubt your own sense of moral outrage and your own sense of injustice.

All of which is a long winded way of saying - stop thinking tribally. Which is where Humanism comes in. Yes, we have an awesome moral code. But you know what really makes the philosophy powerful? Is that the very name of the philosophy, Humanism, is a reminder that we need to look past our tribal impulses to see others we are in conflict with as part of our tribe.

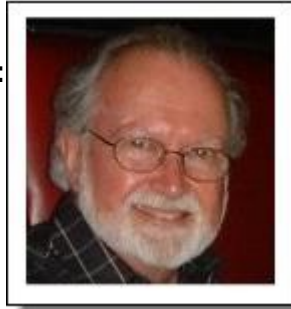
Humanist need to help people think more clearly, certainly, but that doesn't mean we need to spend our time convincing people to abandon their religious moralities. It's actually way easier and way more effective to encourage them to think more humanistically and less tribally about justice and responsibility. To read the full article for yourself go to: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/11/why-we-fightand-can-we-stop/309525/>

*Jennifer Hancock*

# Institute for Rational Living

is the official psychoanalytical representative of Center for Inquiry:

Institute for Rational Living  
2502 N Rocky Point Dr, Suite 1010  
Tampa, FL 33607-1406  
Office Phone: 1-727-278-8446  
Office Fax: 1-727-391-8459  
[vparr@ishv.net](mailto:vparr@ishv.net)



Vincent Parr, PhD  
Clinical Psychologist at Institute for Advanced Study MRL  
President at Institute for Rational Living

Dr. Parr is a licensed Clinical Psychologist with over 40 years experience in Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) and Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). He also has 23 + years of experience in Mindfulness and Zen. He uses these two very powerful approaches to help people reach freedom -- that is, the freedom that comes from maximally eliminating suffering (often defined as chronic disappointment and frustration) and disturbance (Anger, Anxiety, Depression, and Guilt).

Dr. Parr has been a consultant to the United States Air Force, Hayatt International, Bic Pen Corporation, the City of St. Petersburg, the St. Petersburg Police Department, the Institute for Rational Living, the Institute for Advanced study in Rational Psychotherapy, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Tampa for nine years. In addition, he sits on the national Board of Directors for the Institute for Science and Human Values.

## Robyn Blumner named Executive director of Dawkins Foundation

Washington, DC --The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science U.S. today announced that Robyn Blumner has been named Executive Director, effective February 5, 2014. Blumner will replace the interim Director, Edwina Rogers, who also serves as the Executive Director of the Secular Coalition for America.



Blumner is a longtime columnist and editorial writer for the Tampa Bay Times in Florida. She has an extensive background as a public advocate for church-state separation, the rights of atheists and other nontheists, a spectrum of civil liberties and civil rights causes, economic and racial justice and other progressive causes. Her nonprofit experience includes having led two statewide affiliates of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"I am delighted to have Robyn Blumner leading the Foundation in the U.S.," said Richard Dawkins. "Her published writings show her to be a strong, unapologetic atheist with the vision to pursue the imaginative aims of the Foundation, while her legal background and non-profit experience equip her to put them into practice."

To learn more about the Dawkins Foundation, visit [www.dawkinsfoundation.org](http://www.dawkinsfoundation.org).

## AH Appignani Humanist LC Legal Center

### Gay High School Student Suspended for Ripped Bible Has Record Cleared

December 5, 2013 – Involvement of the Appignani Humanist Legal Center clears suspension and allows student to continue carrying ripped Bible at Birdville High School in North Richland Hills, TX.

### Case Challenging Prayers, Chapel Use for Public School Graduation Continues in South Carolina

December 3, 2013 – A district judge is allowing a South Carolina public school system to continue graduation ceremonies in a Christian chapel with Christian prayers while the AHA prepares for trial.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.compassionandchoices.org)

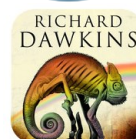


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**Compassion & Choices**  
Choice & Care at the End of Life.



*The Magic of Reality*

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

# *The Limits of our knowledge* By Frank Prahl

Humans have often evoked gods to explain most everything they did not understand. Science has been steadily eroding this practice, now mostly referred to as “God of the gaps.” While viewing Youtube videos of conferences and other speeches, I was struck by another useful phrase, “Limits of their knowledge,” used by Neil DeGrasse Tyson when he was talking about Intelligent Design, which he labeled a “philosophy of ignorance.”



Basically, what he said was that even those we can think of as great scientists; Ptolemy, Galileo, Newton and Huygens were his examples that did not evoke a god as long as they understood a happening or process. At the limits of their knowledge, when they could not explain more with the available evidence, only then did they postulate that a god had possibly created or directed the not-understood event. 100 years after Newton, Laplace had worked out the remaining problems Newton left unanswered and was asked by Napoleon what role God played in the orbits of the planets, he replied that he “had no need for that hypothesis.”

This concept of “**limits of our knowledge**” needs to be emphasized in schools along with “skepticism” in all classes as a part of “critical thinking skills.” This phrase seems less confrontational than the “God of the gaps” phrase we often use. God or a Creator need not be mentioned in most studies, so as not to upset theists. There is nothing wrong, and is more honest, in saying “I don’t know” instead of invoking a god or creator. At least this leaves open other possible explanations. And, this is what science is all about; searching for natural, not supernatural explanations.

\* Frank is a Humanist /atheist activist of long standing who has contributed greatly to the secular movement. JP

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Dear Friend,

Congress is at it again, trying once more to limit the right of women to control their own bodies.

Recently, a bill called the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act” cleared a House committee and is on its way to be voted on before the entire U.S. House of Representatives. This bill takes the unnecessary step of prohibiting the expenditure of federal funds for any abortion and also includes “conscience protections” for medical officials who do not wish to provide abortions services for religious reasons.

Enough is enough! **Take action now, and tell your Representative to oppose the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.**

This dangerous piece of legislation further limits the ability of women—many of whom cannot afford the expense—to receive safe access to an abortion. Religious extremists are leading the effort to end a woman’s right to choose entirely—and we can’t let that happen.

**Please help us stand up for the rights of women by opposing this bill.** It’s simple to use our Action Alert system, and your message will be sent directly to your Representative.

Your humanist voice can make a big difference. I thank you again for standing up for women’s rights and against religious extremists.

Sincerely,



**Roy Speckhardt**  
Executive Director, American Humanist Assoc.





## A focus for February

by Rick O'Keefe, branch coordinator, Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay

In February we Americans take time for reflecting on our presidential history. Because education and critical thinking are bedrocks of Humanism and of Center for Inquiry, I share a thought from Abraham Lincoln, excerpted from his *Discoveries and Inventions*. In that lecture, Lincoln expounded on a handful of what he considered to be major events that propelled civilization forward. This one is apropos.



Rick O'Keefe

“But, to return to the consideration of printing, it is plain that it is but the *other* half -- and in real utility, the *better* half -- of writing; and that both together are but the assistants of speech in the communication of thoughts between man and man. When man was possessed of speech alone, the chances of invention, discovery, and improvement, were very limited; but by the introduction of each of these, they were greatly multiplied. When writing was invented, any important observation, likely to lead to a discovery, had at least a chance of being written down, and consequently, a better chance of never been forgotten; and of being seen, and reflected upon, by a much greater number of persons; and thereby the chances of a valuable hint being caught, proportionally augmented. By this means the observation of a single individual might lead to an important invention, years, and even centuries after he was dead. In one word, by means of writing, the seeds of invention were more permanently preserved, and more widely sown. And yet, for the three thousand years during which printing remained undiscovered after writing was in use, it was only a small portion of the people who could write, or read writing; and consequently the field of invention, though much extended, still continued very limited. At length printing came. It gave ten thousand copies of any written matter, quite as cheaply as then were given before; and consequently a thousand minds were brought into the field where there was but one before. This was a great *gain*; and history shows a great *change* corresponding to it, in point of time. I will venture to consider *it*, the true termination of that period called "the dark ages." Discoveries, inventions, and improvements followed rapidly, and have been increasing their rapidity ever since. The effects could not come, all at once. It required time to bring them out; and they are still coming. The *capacity* to read could not be multiplied as fast as the *means* of reading. Spelling-books just began to go into the hands of the children; but the teachers were not very numerous, or very competent; so that it is safe to infer they did not advance so speedily as they do now-a-days. It is very probable – almost certain – that the great mass of men, at that time, were utterly unconscious, that their *conditions* or their *minds* were capable of improvement. They not only looked upon the educated few as superior beings; but they supposed themselves to be naturally incapable of rising to equality. To emancipate the mind from this false and underestimate of itself is the great task which printing came into the world to perform. It is difficult for us, *now* and *here*, to conceive how strong this slavery of the mind was; and how long it did, of necessity, take, to break its shackles, and to get a habit of freedom of thought, established. It is, in this connection, a curious fact that a new country is most favorable -- almost necessary -- to the immancipation of thought, and the consequent advancement of civilization and the arts.”



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](http://www.tampa-bay.org)

**We repair our members computers!**

Order this important new book now from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)

By local Humanistic Counselor,  
**Linda Faulkner**



**Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.**  
 Sarasota, Florida

### Calendar of Upcoming main events:

**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](#):

***Dangerous Wishcraft***, By Linda Faulkner is a must read for anyone who has ever questioned the truth of religious beliefs, explores the dangers of relying on prayer ~wishcraft~ rather than using rational thinking skills, and the often tragic mental, emotional, and physical consequences that can result. Religion, which may have originated as a way to explain the world, has now become an anchor in the fight against scientific knowledge. Modern evangelical religions are attempting to drag the world back into the Dark Ages. This book shines a light, through stories of clients scarred by religion combined with scientific research, on the damage religious fanaticism can inflict on both individual and global levels, and also presents potential strategies for protection from the dangerous practice of wishcraft.



<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](http://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

- **2014 International Year of Family Farming (UN)**  
February is **Black History Month**

- 1st **National Freedom Day**
- 7th **Opening of the Winter Olympics**
- 11th **Make a Friend Day**
- 12th **Lincoln and Darwin’s Birthday**
- 14th **National Organ Donor Day**
- 16th **Do a Grouch a Favor Day**
- 28th **Public Sleeping Day**



### TBCoR Leadership Team 2014

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

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### Be Included!

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