



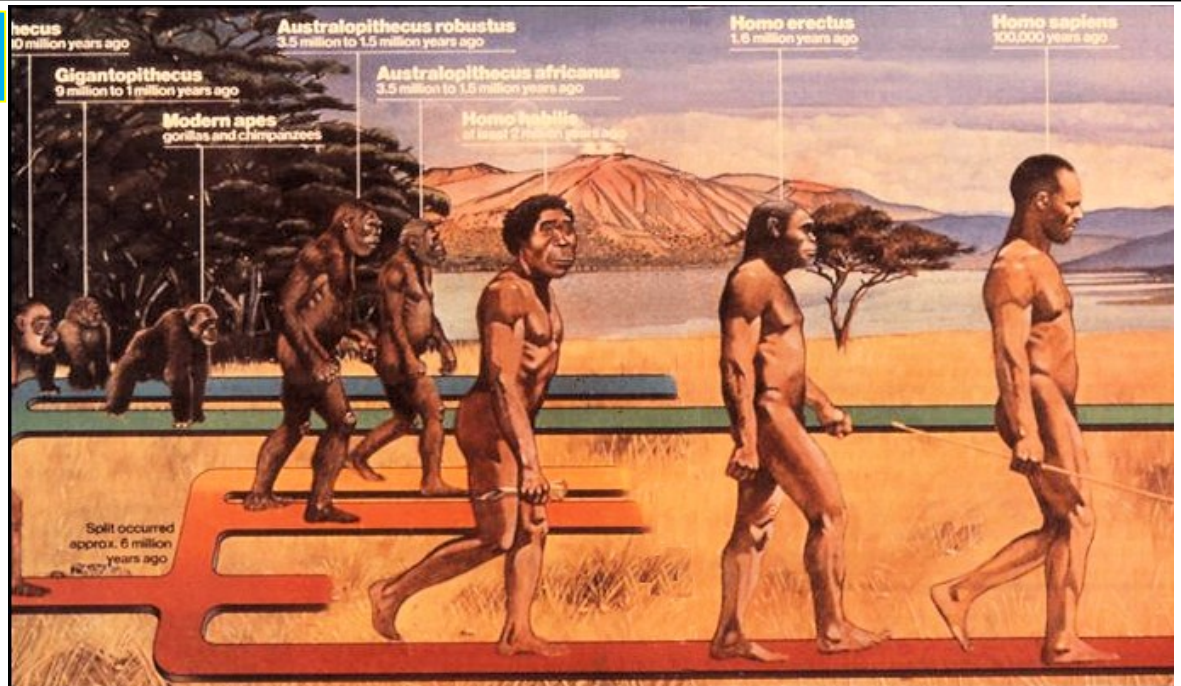
The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 1 Jan. 2013 Jim Peterson, Editor

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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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Rick O'Keefe

Web site
Jim Peterson

Newsletter
[Jim Peterson](mailto:Jim.Peterson@metrodirect.net)

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

Be Included!

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

Winterfest



Join us for a time of renewal

7 PM at the UUC social hall on Saturday, January 19th.

The idea is to get together to renew old friendships, form new ones, share ideas and experiences, and get ready for another year of expanding the free community. Such activities require the supplementation of suitable food and drink (BYOAB) to get the juices flowing. All group members are invited. All we ask is for everyone to **bring** their best **pot luck** specialties. A - F bring salad, G - L bring veggie or starch side dish, M - R bring main dish, S - Z bring dessert.

What ever you make or bring should provide portions for at least 8 people. You are invited to share our communal cuisine, and the good friendship of like minded people. To let us know what treat you plan to contribute; call **Mark at (727) 733-7855.**

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason Presents,

Darwin's Gift

A half day exploration of the meaning and potential of Science.

Saturday, February 9th 2013
10 AM to 2 PM

Among our expert speakers will be:
***Sean Faircloth**, of the Dawkins Institute
***Jim Strayer**, Biologist, Univ. Michigan
***Ryan Cragun**, Ph. D. Univ. Tampa

This will be at the **Clearwater UU Octagon Center at 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater.**

The Cost for tickets is \$15/person if purchased by January 31st, or \$20 at the door. Price includes a box lunch.

Tickets may be purchased from CoR Organizations, or be ordered from Facilitator, Rick O'Keefe. Mail your check made out to TBCoR, or credit card#, exp., and

(Continued on page 12)

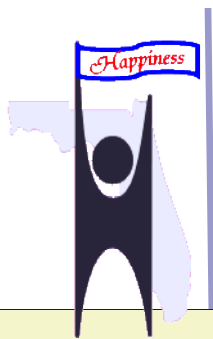
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON – JANUARY, 2013 CALENDAR

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

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

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

01-03, Thursday, 6:30 PM		MID-PINELLAS— CFI goes Cajun	See our Meetup for the venue.	Details and RSVP—go here: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/events/96073622/
01-05, Saturday, 2 PM		CLEARWATER— The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Countryside Library 2741 S.R 580 Clearwater, FL MAP	Program: The Coming Age of Austerity See page 3 for details
01-06, Sunday, 10:30 AM		APOLLO BEACH— Humanist Families of Tampa	Venues change.	Manatee Viewing Center trip. Family outings and other activities are ongoing. For more information, see our Facebook page
01-10, Thursday, 7 PM		S. PINELLAS— Pinellas County Skeptics	To be determined. See the website .	Monthly skeptical dinner
01-13, Sunday, 7 PM		BRANDON— Joint CFI & Brandon Atheists	The Brass Tap 775 Brandon Town Center Brandon, FL MAP	RSVP to Kathryn before noon of the Friday, preceding the social. Ask the host for the Brandon Atheists table.
01-13, Sunday, 1:30 PM		TAMPA— Atheists of Florida—Tampa Chapter	Atheists of Florida Office 5103 South Westshore Blvd Tampa, FL (just four blocks south of Gandy Blvd., west side.)	RSVP Website (legal & official): http://aofla.wordpress.com/
01-19, Saturday, 11:00 AM		TAMPA— Tampa Humanist Association	Jimmie B. Keele Library 2902 W. Bearss Ave Tampa, FL MAP	Program: Love Humanist Style. See page 7 . http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
01-19, Saturday, 7:00 PM Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason		CLEARWATER—WinterFest Pot Luck for All Tampa Bay Humanists, Skeptics, & Atheists.	Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Clearwater 2470 Nursery Road Clearwater, FL 33764 MAP	See for details: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/events/94205362/ A Potluck for everybody! Meet your friends & make new ones. Bring food for 8 - call.
01-21, Monday, 6:30 PM		CARROLLWOOD— Tampa Bay Thinkers Discussion Group	Carrollwood Cultural Center 4537 Lowell Rd, Carrollwood, FL 33618 (NW Tampa) MAP	“Is Wisdom Possible in an ADHD World?” RSVP at Web site .
01-24, Thursday, 7 PM		N. PINELLAS— Pinellas County Skeptics	For details & to RSVP, see the website .	Monthly skeptical dinner
Every 2 weeks in North Tampa TBA,		Café Philo	Check website for current times & locations	Philosophical discussion group in Tampa Click to RSVP
WinterFest is our meeting. 01-19, Saturday, 7:00 PM		BRANDON— CFI Sceptic/Humanist Mixer	See the Meetup for details & the RSVP (required).	Your RSVP is needed ASAP. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/events/94205362/
01-28, Monday, 6:00 PM,		CLEARWATER— UU Humanists	Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Clearwater 2470 Nursery Road Clearwater, FL 33764 MAP	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 12!</i> Click here before noon, xxx (Sunday). Click HERE .
Annual meeting in March.		PALM HARBOR— CFI Skeptics/Humanists Social - a change from Dunedin.	See the Meetup for details & the RSVP (required) before noon of the Sunday preceding the social..	Details forthcoming
		Americans United for Separation of Church & State	TBA	



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast News

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

Volume 21 No. 1

January, 2013

Austerity: Intimations of a New Way of Life.

Lessons from the newly manufactured Greek Tragedy...
Discussion led by: *Mihalis Halkides, Ph.D., & Marios Psomas*

All of us face multiple systemic challenges and crises with potentially detrimental impact for our lives. These challenges cannot be analyzed outside their context--today's global relations and their consequences.

We witness on a daily basis the results of the economic crises of the capitalist financial system; production, distribution, and consumption controls over limited resources; population issues; worldwide climate change, and so on. As these crises hit closer to home, we are compelled to make sense of them. No longer can we afford to claim that it's "all Greek to us."

The 'Imposed Austerity' and 'Forced Privatizations' felt harshly across Europe nowadays, from Greece to Spain, Italy, and beyond, are the start of a tsunami that will be felt worldwide, with dire consequences. What are the possibilities for progressive change? what is the context of such a change? what can we learn beyond the Greek and southern European situation?

As human beings, we are everywhere clever and capable, and moreover we have stored a vast reserve of knowledge and experience that may be used in rejecting the present regime, and creating a good way of life.

Though our curiosity may be powerful, we cannot peer reliably more than a few years into the future. Uncertainty builds the further we try to ascertain the fate of our species. But for this immediate future, which is ours to create, we have living examples of what others have experienced and how they have responded. We are fortunate to have two observers who are quite familiar with the situation in Greece, being Greek themselves. As they speak and read Greek fluently, they have heard many perspectives and analyses from Greek commentators, scientists, and politicians, as well as many citizens. Their conclusions will be highly useful to us. For more on our subject, see Page [6](#).



Dr. Mihalis Halkides



Marios Psomas

Don't forget!

January is dues renewal month. See page [5](#) for the form. Note that by contributing at the \$35-40 level you are eligible to receive a handsome "Happy Humanist" Lapel pin. Wear it with pride, as it identifies you as a proud member of an organized movement of people who think for themselves. Your contributions will allow us to open opportunities for others to discover the difference organized humanism makes in the tenor and quality of life*. For those who think it important to help Humanism become the living philosophy of the majority, here is an opportunity to join with us and build a foundation for a new way of being human.

(* And if you like to help the tenor, " you might feel good helping the soprano too!)



James Randi is one of the world's most accomplished stage magicians. His mind-numbing feats of legerdemain have been witnessed by millions of people. He has used his fame as a platform to champion the cause of reason and critical thinking. [The James Randi Educational Foundation](#) was founded in 1996 to help people defend themselves from paranormal and pseudoscientific claims. The JREF offers a still-unclaimed million-dollar reward for anyone who can produce evidence of paranormal abilities under controlled conditions. Through scholarships, workshops, and innovative resources for educators, the JREF works to inspire this investigative spirit in a new generation of critical thinkers.

We need your help to create a world where everyone has access to the tools of science and critical thinking, and charlatans can't get rich by deceiving people. You can make a difference by becoming a member, taking action with us to stop paranormal and pseudoscientific frauds, or joining us at the Amazing Meeting, the world's premier gathering of skeptical thinkers.

Find us

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



Food: the first kindness. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others.

There is increasing hunger here in our community.

Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food or checks for:

Tampa Bay Harvest.

**Please join us for
this free and open
discussion.**

**On Saturday,
January. 5th.
at 2 PM:**

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

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



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

Our monthly social dinner,

The Moveable Feast for January will be
In lieu of our regular monthly social dinner; we will
Celebrate the annual Tampa Bay

Winter fest

with our fellow freethinkers on Saturday, January
19th from 7 to 9 at the Unitarian-Universalist
Congregation of Clearwater's Social Hall. This is
at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.

Please call Mark Brandt with your Pot Luck
offering at (727) 733-7855. Bring your potluck
offering along the following last name schedule:

A - F bring salad, G - L bring veggie, or starch side dish,
M - R bring main dish, S - Z bring dessert.
Bring enough for 8.

Laugh Lines Assorted Grins & Groans

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, 'Ernie, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!'

'Heck,' said Ernie, 'It's not just one car. It's hundreds of 'em!'

The reason Politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would "hate" to have to make a living under the laws they've passed.

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45-minute wait for a table.

"Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes."

They were seated immediately.

Three friends their ends. "When you're in your casket, and friends and family members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

John was on his deathbed and gasped pitifully, "Give me one last request, dear," he said. "Of course, John," his wife said softly. "Six months after I die," he said, "I want you to marry Bob."

"But I thought you hated Bob," she said..

With his last breath John said, "I do!"

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

Steve Brown, VP

Terry Eckstien

Lois Fries, Secretary

Jon Green

Jim Peterson, President

Frank Prah

Marios Psomas, treasurer

Emeritus members: Anita Garcia,

Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore, Mark

Winterbottom, Bob Collette, Glenn

Paul, Don Acenbrach Dec., Jackie

Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,

Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

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

Jordan Williams, Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

How you can Help

I hope these general notes are helpful.

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

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

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

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

A Humanist Helping Hand

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

- ◆ Terri Eckstien (813) 891-9399
- ◆ Jerry Moore (727) 455-4973
- ◆ Nan Owens (813) 662-6612



FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU supporter,

Over the last two weeks, thousands of Floridians have signed our petition urging Senators Nelson and Rubio to pressure the Department of Homeland Security to end the controversial immigration enforcement program which has led to thousands of deportations from Florida. The fate of the program, known as 287(g), which opens the door to racial profiling and makes communities less safe, could be decided at the beginning of next week.

Groups across the country and in Florida are flooding the White House switchboard with calls for an end to the program. **We need your voice: [Call the White House today to tell President Obama to end the racial profiling program.](#)**

The 287(g) program lets local law enforcement agencies enter into agreements with ICE to enforce federal immigration laws and detain people for deportation, often for minor offenses like traffic violations. The Collier County and Jacksonville Sheriffs' participation in the program has led to the deportation of thousands of individuals, increased the potential for racial profiling, and eroded trust between law enforcement and minority communities here in Florida.

Thousands of you signed the petition we sent to Senators Rubio and Nelson calling for an end to the program when the agreements expire this month, and ACLU leaders delivered 4,500 more signatures to the White House on Thursday. Now, members of organizations across the country are joining together to call on the White House to end the program when the Department of Homeland Security reviews the agreements on the 17th.

Calling takes only a few minutes, and your voice will be echoed by the countless others taking action to end the program. **[Join the growing chorus of voices calling for an end to the program now.](#)**

Thank you for standing with us in defense of liberty.

ACLU of Florida
www.aclufi.org



**People
Over Politics**

~ Time to Renew ~ ⁵

*The Humanist Society
of the Suncoast.*

Annual Dues

_ Trial -3 month- free news

_ Regular -**\$25.**

_ Reg. Couple -**\$30.**

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

_ Life -**\$200.**

_ Life Couple -**\$250.**

_ Associate -**\$10.**

_ **Contribution for growth**

New!



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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send to:

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

Humanist Quotes

“Human beings and their actions
constitute the advancing front,
the surging crest of an ongoing
movement that never stops.”

Corliss Lamont,
1902–1995, philosopher



Austerity: American Style

Last year, almost one in four children lived in a family that regularly had difficulty affording sufficient food, according to the US department of agriculture. On the other end of life, [8.3 million people over 60 in 2010 faced the threat of hunger](#), up 78% from a decade earlier – yet another reason to oppose the proposed [fiscal cliff](#) cuts in social security or Medicare.

Hunger and malnutrition lead to a broad array of health problems, ranging from reduced immunity to disease or even organ failure. For children, poor nutrition can severely stunt cognitive development and growth. For adults and seniors, the consequences can include more chronic illnesses and shorter life spans.

Over [20 million Americans live in extreme poverty](#) – with cash incomes as low as \$10,000 a year for a family of four. Is it any wonder that the US has the third highest poverty rate out of 30 leading industrial nations?

The problem is exacerbated by decades of economic and political policies that have resulted in a massive shift of national wealth from working people to the corporate boardrooms and the yacht owners. One result: real wage growth for workers has stagnated for 30 years; median household income has steadily fallen since the Wall Street produced economic crash of 2008. Much of the limited job growth since then has been in the lowest wage sectors, primarily food service and retail.

Sadly, the issue remained almost as invisible on the 2012 campaign trail as it was when Michael Harrington shocked the nation in 1962 with his book, *The Other America*. But it is not a surprise to those who, every day, see the faces of poverty and the suffering of families left behind – even as corporate profits once again soar and the parties and good times are back on Wall Street.

With all the enormous wealth in our nation, we really can do something about poverty – as well as the overall economic morass that continues to plague not just the unemployed, or those working two or three jobs, and flipping hamburgers in Main Street towns and cities from coast to coast.

There is a solution. Everyone deserves a good job at living wages, guaranteed healthcare for all based on patient need, not on ability to pay, and equal access to quality education. And now, with cuts to social security on the table, (2.5 - 6%) and despite the push by some politicians in Washington and many state capitals to enact more austerity programs on already hard-hit communities, there is a simple way to keep anti-poverty programs in place and pay for them.

A modest tax Wall Street on speculation, embodied in [HR 6411](#), [authored by Representative Keith Ellison](#), could generate up to \$350 billion every year, an amount that could save over 1.7 million homes from foreclosure, or finance 9 million new jobs at current average wage levels. Or it could fund the food plans of 24 million families of four for a year, or lift all 3.8 million female-headed households out of poverty for nearly a decade. Increasingly, the "Other America" is becoming all of us. It is up to all of us to end our national shame.



Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



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

<http://secular.org/>



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

Clearwater UU Humanists

We are a group of Unitarian Universalists committed to a humanistic and non-theistic worldview. Currently, meetings are scheduled once a month and are usually held on the third Sunday of most months from 12.30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services.

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

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



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will be meeting on Sat. January 19th, at 7 Pm, for it's regular monthly meeting which will be the CoR Winterfest Potluck. We will meet in the Unitarian-Universalist social hall at the UUC at 2470 Nursery Road in Clearwater. All are welcome.

See the announcement on [page 1](#) about this first annual Bay Area Freethinkers Winterfest!



Florida Now

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

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

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

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

Tampa Humanist Association

Saturday January 19th, 2012 at
11.00 am Jimmie B. Keele Library,
2902 W. Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL.
Look for the Tampa Humanist Assoc. sign.
Topic:



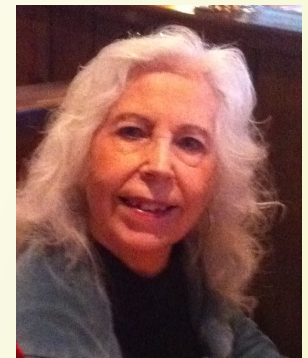
It's not Valentines day yet,
but it's always time to speak of

LOVE

A philosophical and psychological consideration of one the most basic of human emotions.

Led by Patricia Walters, LMHC

Patricia is an experienced mental health counselor in the USF community, and has served in a variety of posts, both academic and civic to serve the community. She has had a variegated career in music and the arts as well. She has written a treatise of some import on this subject but invites your opinions and expression of feeling and ideas, on a matter of enduring interest.



Patricia Walters



The Tampa Humanist Association is the only AHA Humanist group in Hillsborough County. This is a county of more than 1 million people. If statistical averages are correct, than at least 150,000 of those people do not support conventional institutions of religion. Currently, our roles do not number more than 20. I think we can agree that there is room for growth.

We experienced a major setback with the death of president and cofounder Rob Byrch, but with still enthusiastic members and board, and support from our sister organization, the Humanist Society of the Suncoast, we continue to offer the people of Tampa, a local Humanist option.

Join today, or renew your dues. Only \$25/ year or \$35 with the Happy Humanist pin. \$5 more includes spouse + 2 pins.



[Click to register](#) for next year

Ages 7-16, Holland, NY



Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future



Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area:
Americans United,* Tampa Humanist Association, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Center for Inquiry, UU Humanists Clearwater, UU Humanists Tampa,* Secular Student Alliance USF,* Atheists of Florida, Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought ideas and principles.

(*= not currently members of the Coalition)

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

Calendar:
Rick O'Keefe

Newsletter:
Jim Peterson

Web site:
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

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

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

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

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

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

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

TBPCC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

Ours is a challenging path, assailed on one hand by those who dismiss our concerns as groundless or Malthusian and, on the other, by those who believe the situation is hopeless and therefore our efforts are irrelevant. And that's just in the context of the sustainability debate, one in which relatively few politicians, pundits, and the general public are even engaged. Bigger still are the entrenched interests who can and do expend tremendous financial resources and political leverage to keep our society's collective pedal to the fossil fuel metal. (It's hard not to feel chagrin to discover that Rex Tillerson, the CEO of ExxonMobil, [made](#) the equivalent of PCI's entire annual budget in just seven days of work last year.) And biggest, of course, are the very systems—food, transport, land use, buildings, economics, education, governance—that fossil fuels have built over many decades, and which cannot be remade quickly or easily.

In the face of such odds, why bother? Because we must. But it's not just that. It's because, rightly or wrongly, I have hope. That hope is based on two things:

1. The still small but rapidly growing movement of individuals and [communities building resilience](#) in response to current shocks and preparation for future. These early actors are working to reduce consumption, produce local food and energy, invest in local economies, and preserve local ecosystems.

2. A belief that humans, while lousy at proactively mitigating hardship, are a pretty adaptive species once the proverbial s%#t hits the fan.

It's the combination of these that provides [a framework of sorts](#) for PCI's own efforts, modeled (ironically enough) on the words of Milton Friedman: "Only a crisis—actual or perceived—produces real change. When the crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around. That, I believe, is our basic function: to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes politically inevitable." *Asher Miller*

Executive Director of the Post Carbon Institute

Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more.

Humanist Books

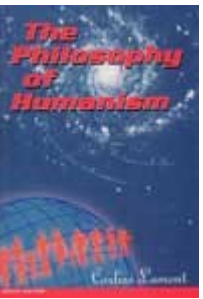


[One Planet One People](#) by Carl Coon \$22.



Former Ambassador to Nepal, Carl Coon provides a highly readable overview of the evolution of human society, arguing that the 21st century will witness a crucially important and difficult transition for the human race. Blending the disciplines of anthropology and evolutionary psychology with over thirty years of experience in the diplomatic corps, Coon traces the evolution of the human tendency to divide others into two groups, "us versus them." Today, he argues, we have reached a stage where the whole world must be viewed as "us," if we are to overcome the global challenges we face. Hardcover 149 pp.

[The Philosophy of Humanism](#) - Dr. Corliss Lamont \$16.95



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

These books and a great many more, plus pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

from:

Evolve Fish

<http://evolvefish.com/fish/HumanistPress.html>

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 Freedom from Religion Foundation



The history of Western civilization shows us that most social and moral progress has been brought about by persons free from religion. In modern times the first to speak out for prison reform, for humane treatment of the mentally ill, for abolition of capital punishment, for women's right to vote, for death with dignity for the terminally ill, and for the right to choose contraception, sterilization and abortion have been freethinkers, just as they were the first to call for an end to slavery. The Foundation works as an umbrella for those who are free from religion and are committed to the cherished principle of separation of state and church. Learn more [here](#).



CENTER FOR INQUIRY

News and Updates

Hot,
caffeinated
beverage
to
wake up
your body.



Outrageous, inspiring news to wake up
your brain.

We know. You're tired.

- You're tired of all the nonsense, myth-mongering, and faulty thinking that parades across your screen every day.
- Tired of explaining the difference between religious freedom and religious privilege... *again*.
- Tired of talking about the importance of free speech and the reality of evolution... *again*.
- Tired of always having to defend your nonbelief and skepticism, of always having to explain how you can be good without god and why the world is not about to end... *again*.

Also, well, you're just *tired*.

The good news is we get it and we're here to help.

Every day on the **CFI blog**, Paul Fidalgo brings you **The Morning Heresy**, a clearinghouse of links you need to stay up to date and motivated about all things having to do with religion and irreligion, science and pseudoscience, and how they all affect our society and our lives. It's the finest daily digest of news relevant to the secular and skeptic community and it will help you **wake the hell up and get busy!**

Now, not only can you wake up your brain, you can wake up your body, too, with the new [Morning Heresy mug!](#)

The quest for a more secular and reality-based society is a long-game. Don't go into battle empty handed. Make sure you bring something to wake you up—a caffeinated beverage and a daily reminder of how important it is that we all push past tired and keep doing what we do.

Get your Morning Heresy Mug from the CFI Store - [Here](#)

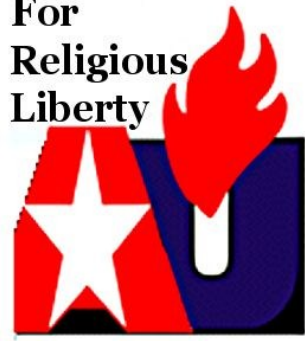
"...being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead."

Kurt Vonnegut

Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association

A Tradition of Advocacy

For
Religious
Liberty



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

For more information, see: <http://www.au.org/>
The Chapter meets at Good Samaritan Church
located at 6085 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park (61st St.).
The next meeting will be the annual meeting in
next March.

The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



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

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

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris
(christbrown@yahoo.com)
MSgt, USAF (Active) Co-Organizer:
MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists
(MASH) MacDill AFB, FL

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

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

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

Throughout the year we host parties like Darwin Day in February, World Humanist Day in June, Freethought Day at Disney in October and Carl Sagan Day in November.

Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa/>

Part of my practice as a Humanist is to actively be grateful to the people in my life that make living such a joy. I know that my time here on earth is limited. In the grand scheme things, my actions are insignificant. That doesn't deter me from being the best most ethical person I can be though. Why? Because, even though my actions may not matter in the grand scheme of things, my actions most definitely matter here and now to the people I interact with.

And yes, this is enough for me. My actions do matter to the people I meet. I can either do my best to help make our collective lives easier or I can abandon my responsibilities to existential despair. To me, this gets to the core of why I choose to be a Humanist. I choose to live life fully and to do my best to be my best despite it all.

I am grateful that I am alive. I am grateful for the amazing people I have in my life to love and who love me in return. And I am grateful that I have the opportunity to share my ideas of how to live life fully with you. Have a great Month!

What's Been Going On? Humanists and the Holidays

Now, because I get asked this question a lot, I wanted to share with you how my family is celebrating the holidays. We celebrate them all. I view this time of year as a wonderful opportunity to teach my son comparative religion. We just finished lighting the candles for Hannukah and are preparing for a Christmas/Saturnalia feast. We love learning about different people's and traditions and we have yet to learn about a holiday we haven't liked. So don't stress out about what the right way to celebrate the holidays is. As long as your life is filled with joy and love, you are doing it right. Here is an article I published on prlog about titled [What is a Humanist and do they celebrate Christmas](#). I also devoted this month's Ask a Humanist to the topic: <http://youtu.be/GR-54AmeQT0>

Atheists of Florida



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

AoF outreach programs can be found at our [Meetup](#) site. The next meeting is on Jan. 13th at 1:30 at the new meeting hall on 5103 South Westshore Blvd. in Tampa. Copies of the current 2012 newsletters are available by writing to: AthAIFLE@aol.com.

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. We affirm the positive values of a rigorously logical and scientific approach to the problems of life.

At the same time, we bring a human centered ethic to bear in serving our fellow human beings as they struggle to overcome the delusional psychology of years of religious conditioning.

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

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



Institute for Science and Human Values

Inspired by Empathy, Creativity and guided by Reason

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

Religious Freedom Day

Monday, January 16, 2013, marks the celebration of the birthday of Martin Luther King. However, it also marks the celebration of Religious Freedom Day. This special day honors the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom passed by the Virginia General Assembly on January 16, 1786. (Thomas Jefferson wrote the law in 1777, and it was introduced to the Assembly in 1779.)

The law defends freedom of thought, freedom of conscience, and the separation of church and state. It was the predecessor to the First Amendment right of religious freedom. It regards religious freedom as a natural right, and maintains that no one may be forced to attend church or to support a place of worship with taxes.

In this day, it is especially important that Americans celebrate this special day. Threats to religious liberty have never been greater. Conservative Christians are attempting to prevent Muslims from building mosques.

In several U.S. states Conservative Christian politicians are attempting to pass laws against Sharia law, even though it poses no threat to the nation. Indeed, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled against Oklahoma's proposed anti-Sharia law, finding that Sharia was no threat to the state. Influential politicians such as Newt Gingrich have led such efforts that discourage the growth of Islam and, at least inadvertently, promote Christianity.

Please join the Institute for Science and Human Values in asking President Obama and your U.S. senators and representatives and local politicians for their support in keeping church and state separate.

12/12

Freethought Film Festival

Promoting Reason through Film

The International Freethought Film Festival is a home for Independent films from around the globe that critically examine truth-claims. The International Freethought Film Festival tagline, "Going there!!!", is a reflection of this.



Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

[Rick O'Keefe](#), CFI certified,

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

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

We have a wonderful library of current books. This is a circulating library that depends on the integrity (and memory) of members to return and keep circulated, the many volumes in this fine unique collection.

Thanks once again to the great and generous efforts of **Matt Cooper**, Matt has "paid it forward", now it's our turn.

CFI & Community Outreach



By Rick O'Keefe

CFI branches and campus affiliates are groups of freethinkers, rationalists, skeptics, secular humanists, atheists, and agnostics who come together for many reasons.

First and foremost, CFI groups offer support, educational programming, and social activities for nonreligious and skeptical people. (Religious people are welcome, too, of course.)

Second, CFI groups are part of the Center for Inquiry's broader educational and outreach initiatives. To this end, CFI groups host numerous local events, discussion groups, lectures, and educational programs relating to CFI's primary research areas: Religion, Ethics, and Society; Paranormal and Pseudoscience Claims; and Medicine and Health.

Third, CFI groups offer nonbelievers and skeptics an opportunity to put their principles into practice by joining with other "reality-based" individuals to bring about positive changes in society. CFI members volunteer within their broader community, participate in local activism campaigns, assist with regional campus outreach, monitor church/state separation issues, advocate for sound science education, and work to promote science and the secular outlook in their state, county, town, and schools.

CFI groups draw upon volunteers and Center for Inquiry Friends and supporters who are enthusiastic about the CFI agenda and wish to take part in our movement. Our members are living proof that there are good, ethical alternatives to religious and paranormal worldviews. If you would like to get involved with CFI's movement defending science, reason, and humanist values, start by becoming a Friend of the Center [through this link](#) or by calling 1-800-818-7071. Then, become active at our CFI branch or the CFI campus group at your school.

Local Events

CFI is co-sponsoring The Humanist Society of the Suncoast lecture, January 5th, in Clearwater <http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/events/>. Click for our [Calendar](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/tampa/events/calendar/2013/01/): <http://www.centerforinquiry.net/tampa/events/calendar/2013/01/>

National Events: May 17-29, 2013--Women in Secularism

Some of our divisions:

- [African Americans for Humanism](#)
- [Tampa Bay Skeptics](#) – Central Florida's famous Skeptics assoc. See page 14.
- [The Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](#) – world-wide assoc. of Skeptics and scientific investigations.
- [Cognitive Neuro Sciences, Inc.](#) – Science-of-the-brain secular humanist oriented counseling/therapy center. Ideal for those wanting to avoid religious-oriented groups like AA.

To become part of our important work, and to make a difference, become a [member](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/support/donate_now/): http://www.centerforinquiry.net/support/donate_now/

CFI's Free Inquirers Club, a monthly discussion.
Contact David Vangsness for details: [CLICK here](#).



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

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

Doc (Dave Dockery)

President, Tampa Bay Computer Society

www.tampa-bay.org

"We repair our members' computers for free!"

Darwin's Gift...

(Continued from page 1)

full name on card to: TBCoR c/o O'Keefe,
4011 S Manhattan Ave. Box 139, Tampa, FL 33611.

There will be exhibits and displays from various scientific groups, and those supporting science, and a range of freethought groups. We are anticipating a good response to this event; get your tickets early.

This will be your opportunity to ask nationally recognized experts about some of the central ideas and current issues that will shape our future. Be there!





What is **Tampa Bay Skeptics**?

Founded in 1988, Tampa Bay Skeptics is a nonprofit educational and scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of **paranormal** and **fringe-science** claims, and the dissemination of factual information about such claims. In 2004, TBS became a Special Interest Group of the **Center For Inquiry–Tampa Bay**.

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

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

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

Attend the Tampa Bay Skeptics Quarterly Meeting Saturday, December 29, 2012, 11:00 AM
Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library on 3910 South Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611

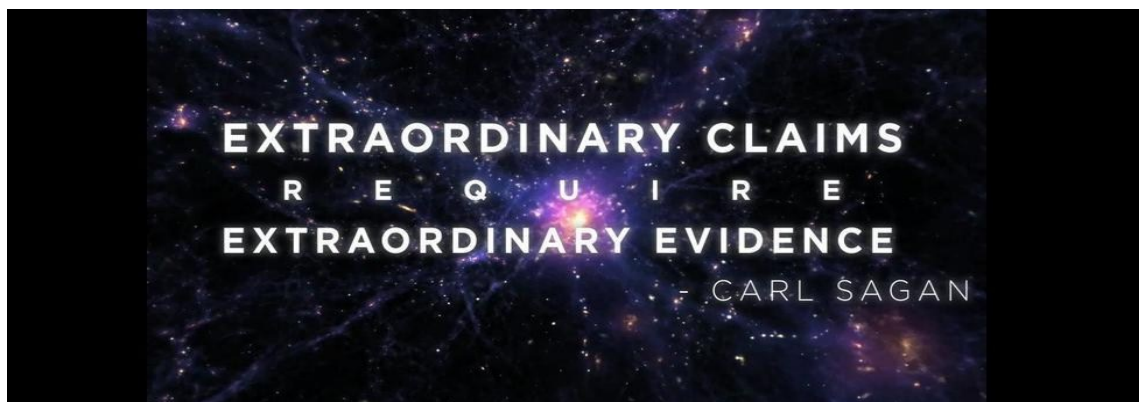
Membership in TBS

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

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

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

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





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

Practical Freethought

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holidays of Special Interest to Freethinkers

- **Jan. 13th** International Skeptics Day
- **Jan. 16th** Martin Luther King/ Civil Rights / [RF Day](#)
- **Jan 29th** Thomas Paine Birthday / Freethinker Day
- **January** National Blood Donor Month
- **2013** International Year of [Water Cooperation](#) (UN)



TBCoR Leadership Team 2012

Jim Peterson, Mark Brandt, Rick O'Keefe, Ed Golly,
 Inset.- Jennifer Hancock

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net