



The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 3 No. 1 January 2014 Jim Peterson, Editor

What's Inside?

- Unified Calendar..... 2
- Humanist Society..... 3 *
- Tampa Humanists..... 5 *
- Atheists of FL 6 *
- Clr.UU-Humanists... 7 *
- Post Carbon Council.. 8
- Cooper Library..... 9
- Humanist Families... 10 *
- Americans United.... 10
- Military Atheists..... 10 *
- Ctr. For Inquiry..... 13 *
- Sarasota Humanists 13
- Coalition News..... 14

* Member organizations



Matthew Cooper
An Extraordinary Humanist

See Page 3

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason celebrates

Darwin Day - The Triumph of Humanity in Reason

Directory

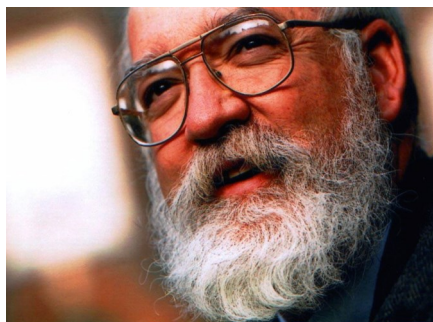
Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar
Rick O'Keefe

Web site
Jim Peterson

Newsletter
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt



Daniel Dennett

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

He is credited with uncovering important aspects of the nature of consciousness whose origins 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.

Other guest 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.

Dr. Dennett, is scheduled to be TBCoR's keynote speaker at Clearwater on Darwin Day-February 8th 2014 . Tickets @ \$30 (\$35 after January 10!) are on sale from many of our constituent organizations. Get yours now for the best pricing. Read more on this event next month. See: www.evolvetampa.com/ Call: (727) 733-7855 or, (813) 505-7013.



Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – January, 2014 Calendar

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.

1-4, 1 st Saturday, 5 PM	CLEARWATER– The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: See page 3 http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
1-12, Sunday, 1:30 PM	S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida–Tampa Chapter	Details & to RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/
1-12, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON– Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub. RSVP. http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/
1-20, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. RSVP at Web site: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
1- , 3 rd Saturday, 11:30 AM	TAMPA– Keel Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic: On Hiatus http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
1-11 Saturday, 5 P.M	CLEARWATER Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Special Memorial FOR Matt Cooper. Memb. Only! See page 4 for details. RSVP
1-19, 3 rd Sunday, 11AM	BRANDON CFI Skeptics in the Pub	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
1-25, 4 th Saturday, 10:30 AM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE– Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. RSVP Details: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
1-27, Every last Monday, 6 PM	N. Pinellas Area CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here <i>before</i> midnight, January 25th. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
1 - TBA, see Web site	S. PINELLAS– Humanist film Meetup	Feature film TBA RSVP at: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
1-19, Sunday, 12:30 PM	CLEARWATER– UU Humanists,	Member Discussion will be speaking
1-14, Saturday, 7 PM	St. Petersburg Astronomy Club	Details, location, & and RSVP to: www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club
see Web site	BRADENTON - Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. See page 13 /www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa October: Annual Humanists at Disney in Orlando. https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/
see Web site	SARASOTA – Humanists of Sarasota Bay	Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html
1-10 Friday & Saturday Evening	TAMPA - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club	See Website : www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi for all details.

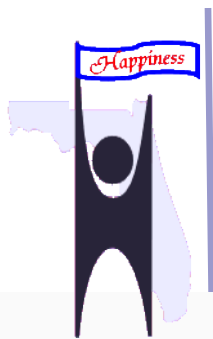


Organizers of these events will be most grateful to all who have the courtesy to RSVP for those events that require it.

Watch for a major COR event coming up!

Saturday, February 8th, 2014 - **Darwin Day** with Special Guest **Daniel Dennett**, one of America's leading intellectuals.

Buy Tickets now (\$30) to "CoR" via CFI - R. O'Keefe 4011 S. Manhattan Ave. #139 Tampa, FL 33612-1277



The Humanist Society³ of the Suncoast News

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

Volume 22 No. 1 January, 2014



What is Humanism?

A video presentation by Frank Ferudi, followed by a group discussion of these ideas and how it applies to our own experience.

Professor Frank Ferudi

Professor of Sociology Frank Furedi answers the question 'What is Humanism?' in this short lecture filmed in the WORLDbytes studio. Whilst humanist ideas have been around for a long time, he observes, they have never been more weakly affirmed than at present. In ancient as well as renaissance times thinkers struggled with questions around what forces determine our destiny and began to formulate ideas that human beings themselves, rather than God or nature had a responsibility for making the world. Humanism, we learn, begins to flourish in renaissance Italy and finds more mature expression in the 17th and 18th centuries. Modern determinisms such as 19th century economic determinism or today's eco-determinism, biological determinism or psychological determinism are all really evasions or excuses that diminish our own sense of taking responsibility for what happens. A Humanist outlook should equip us with an orientation towards reason, problem-solving and a healthy skepticism towards determinisms (or the fates) in the present day. Professor Furedi doesn't overcomplicate the issue or use mystifying jargon in this refreshing and enlightening lecture. Presented in two parts with discussion in between.



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

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

Tampa Bay Harvest

Please join us for
our next free and
open discussion.

**Saturday,
January 4th.
2014**
at 2 PM:
Clearwater
Countryside Library
2741 State Rd. 580
Clearwater, FL 33761

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

Members only Invitation Share your Memories of Matt Cooper

Our late member & great friend who died
December 5th 2013.

Join us Saturday January 11th at 2 PM
Buffet is no cost to members. \$8 all others.

Chopsticks Multicultural Buffet

2543 Countryside Boulevard, Suite 1
Clearwater, FL 33761-3500

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



*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

A Special Movable Feast:
the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner

Chopsticks Buffet

Our January social lunch will be held at the Chopsticks Multicultural Buffet restaurant at **2:00PM on Saturday, January 11th.**

On this special day, we will celebrate the life of **Matt Cooper**. This is free and open to all paid members.

This restaurant is located at **2543 Countryside Boulevard, Suite 1 in Clearwater** about a mile from the Countryside Library.

Please make your reservations with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or reply by email: kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com by Friday, January 10th.

Laugh Lines

12-13

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.

~ Arnold Schwarzenegger.

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.

~ W.H. Auden

I don't believe in astrology. I am a Sagittarius and we're very skeptical.

~ Arthur C. Clarke

Hollywood must be the only place on earth where you can be fired by a man wearing a Hawaiian shirt and a baseball cap.

~ Steve Martin

The first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone.

~ George Roberts

Thanks to: **Connie Purdum**

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

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

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

Jordan Williams, Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com



The **Kochhar Humanist Education Center** hopes to impact the level of community activism among chapters and affiliates of the American Humanist Association by providing case studies and citizen action guides; they bring to light issues on minority religions and ethnicities that humanist chapter members may not have considered before. It will also expand existing efforts like Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism and utilize other resources in working to eliminate the pernicious effects of ignorance and discrimination.

Tampa Humanist Association



Tentative next meeting:

Saturday, February 15th, 2014, 11:00 PM

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

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

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



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 Jan 14th is the next get together at the Pinellas Park Library at 7. See the web site for more: 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



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.

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

Humanist Quotes

“I will not attack your doctrines nor your creeds if they accord liberty to me. If they hold thought to be dangerous - if they aver that doubt is a crime, then I attack them one and all, because they enslave the minds of men. ”

– Robert Green Ingersoll, *The Gods*, 1876



Atheists of Florida



Atheism sprinting into the future!

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

AoF outreach programs can be found at our **Meetup** site. Current newsletters are **available**: Write Athaihle@aol.com. JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our **website** and on our **Facebook page**. Our first meeting of every quarter (Jan., April, July, October) is a potluck; the address information is available only to members of our **Meetup** since it is usually in a private home.

Join us on **January 12th at 1:30 PM for our quarterly family fun day and potluck. All Members are invited to share some special culinary delight, and participate in the scintillating conversation and good times.**

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

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

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

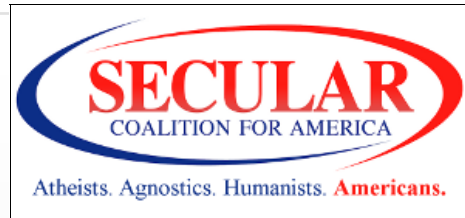


Bank of Wisdom
Electronic publishing to make the world better

6

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



National Secular Movement Update

Before you head out for the holidays, we wanted to take a minute to remind you to register for the SCA's [2014 Lobby Day and Secular Summit!](#) The early bird rate of \$25 for students and \$75 for others will expire on Dec. 31.

This year's event is expected to be the best yet--with each of our organizations participating, we will be lobbying on all of the issues YOU care about. Last year we were joined by a sitting U.S Senator, Tom Harkin of Iowa and a sitting U.S. Congress-man, Jerrold Nadler of New York. We are already working hard to book an exciting lineup that you won't want to miss for our 2014 event!

This will be an opportunity for the entire secular movement to come together on Capitol Hill to lobby for the issues that are most important to each of our organizations.



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

Clearwater UU Humanists

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

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

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

UU Humanists will be meeting Sunday, January 19th, 2014 at 12:30 at Unitarian-Universalists of Clearwater, 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater.

Our discussion will find us exchanging views on our personal experience of Humanism, and how it has affected our lives.



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,

Earlier this month, a federal judge ruled that the NSA's "Orwellian" mass telephone spying program likely violates the Fourth Amendment. And, in a second major blow, President Obama's own NSA review panel also called for an end to the bulk collection of our private phone data.

Here is what I know — if we fight for what is right, if we seize every opening to make progress, and if we never, ever yield to setbacks, our work in the defense of freedom will pay off in the long run.

Right now, that is exactly what is happening in our efforts to end the NSA's dragnet surveillance program. **And contributions from supporters like you mean we can keep seizing EVERY opportunity for victory without stopping to find the resources to take action.**

Challenging secret surveillance programs isn't easy — just ask any ACLU attorney who has been working on privacy and national security issues for the last decade. That is why Edward Snowden's revelations about the NSA were such a game-changer.

When they came to light, our lawyers were able to jump into action — because they'd been there before and because we had the funds to act. And we know exactly what to do now to make sure this un-American and unconstitutional program is brought to an end.

And right now, we've got to keep the pressure on by pursuing our lawsuit challenging the program and by pressing the President and Congress to act.

People
Over Politics



The Humanities Institute of USF

Challenge, Create, Connect: Our new motto focuses our commitment to bring the beauty, values, and lessons of the humanities to USF and our community.

The USF Humanities Institute, established in 2003, 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 developing distinctive signature themes, and strengthening our focus on relevance and community engagement, demonstrating that the joy and challenge of the humanities belong to everyone. **Our 2014 schedule is coming soon.**

Secular Coalition for America



The Secular Coalition helped draft legislation that was introduced this week by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA). The bill would shift \$50 million from abstinence-only education to medically accurate sex education.

Since 1996, the U.S. has spent over \$1.75 billion in federal funding for abstinence-only programs that do not include information on how to prevent unintended pregnancy or STI's including HIV. The bill, HR 3774, would end federal funding of abstinence only until marriage programs. The Secular Coalition worked closely with Rep. Lee's office in crafting language for the legislation.

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future



TBPCC is an autonomous project of the Humanist Society.

FRACKING: A DANGEROUS ILLUSION

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

In the United States, fracking is widely regarded as the biggest energy development in decades, a revolution that is making America self-sufficient in oil and natural gas. Now the petroleum industry wants to bring fracking to Europe, and promises equally grand results.

But there is a problem: if we look beyond mere claims and promises, and examine the actual data on environmental impacts and on oil and gas production potential, the shale revolution in America is revealed to be a costly, destructive project whose benefits are short-lived. In *Snake Oil*, I offer evidence to back up that assessment. Even more has emerged since the book was first published in April of this year..

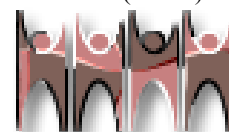
In July 2013, the *Los Angeles Times* published an investigative report by Neela Banerjee based on Environmental Protection Agency internal documents, showing that the EPA had systematically ignored evidence of environmental harms from fracking, choosing not to publicize or act on data collected by its own staff. Evidently the Obama administration finds temporarily rising oil and gas production figures so enthralling that it is willing to ignore the long-term costs to water and air quality, and to the health of humans, livestock, and wildlife.

Meanwhile former Mobil Oil VP Louis W. Allstadt, who spent his career running oil production operations and company mergers, now speaks on behalf of anti-fracking resistance groups, pointing to studies revealing that compromised casings (and resulting instances of water contamination) are far more common than the industry claims.

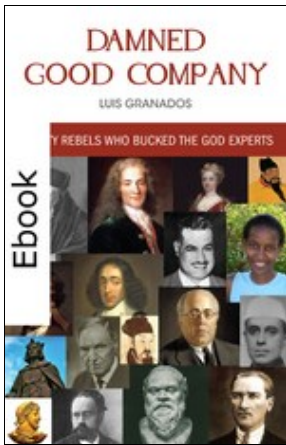
As a result of these kinds of revelations, citizen-led groups are continuing to form across the country to oppose fracking, and the oil and gas industry is increasingly on the defensive.

Richard Heinberg, Senior fellow, Post Carbon Institute

Learn more about these issues. The Post Carbon Council (above) provides many links to fuller understanding. Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more. 1/14 JP

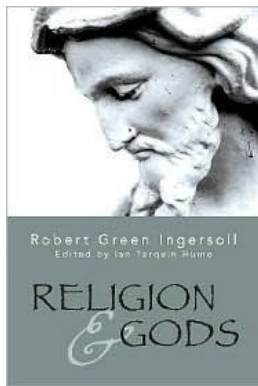


The Humanist Press



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.](#)

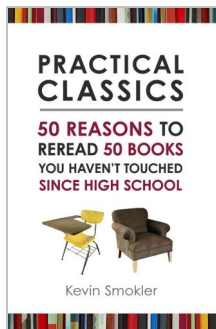


Amid the 21st century's escalating religious tensions, Robert Green Ingersoll's views on the substance of religion and gods offer a firm foundation of logic and independent thought leading to a life examined and a life of happiness free of the shackles of religion. **Prometheus**

Pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

Evolve Fish

<http://evolvefish.com/>



Prometheus Press

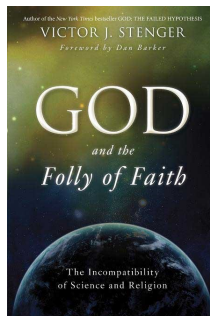
Practical Classics: 50 Reasons to Reread 50 Books You Haven't Touched Since High School.

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. 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 |
| 42. Evolution and the Big Question | David Stamos |
| 43. Why People Believe Weird Things | Michael Shermer |
| 44. The World is Curved | David Snick |
| 45. The Snow Ball | Warren Buffett |
| 46. The Moral Landscape | Sam Harris |
| 47. How We Believe | Michael Shermer |
| 48. Full House | Steven Jay Gould |
| 49. The Origins of Political Order | Francis Fukuyama |

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 |

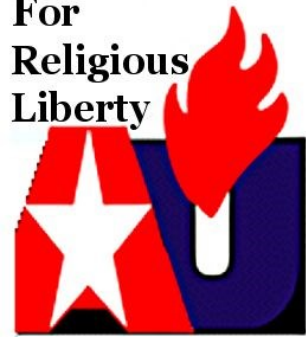
Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

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

Contact: Chris

(christbrown@yahoo.com)

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

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

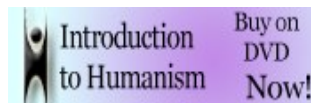
Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings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

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

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

Humanism and Human Rights

**Humanism, and respect for the individual,
is a pre-requisite for human rights.**



I hope you are doing well and that whatever holiday(s) you celebrate, they are fun and enjoyable and loving.

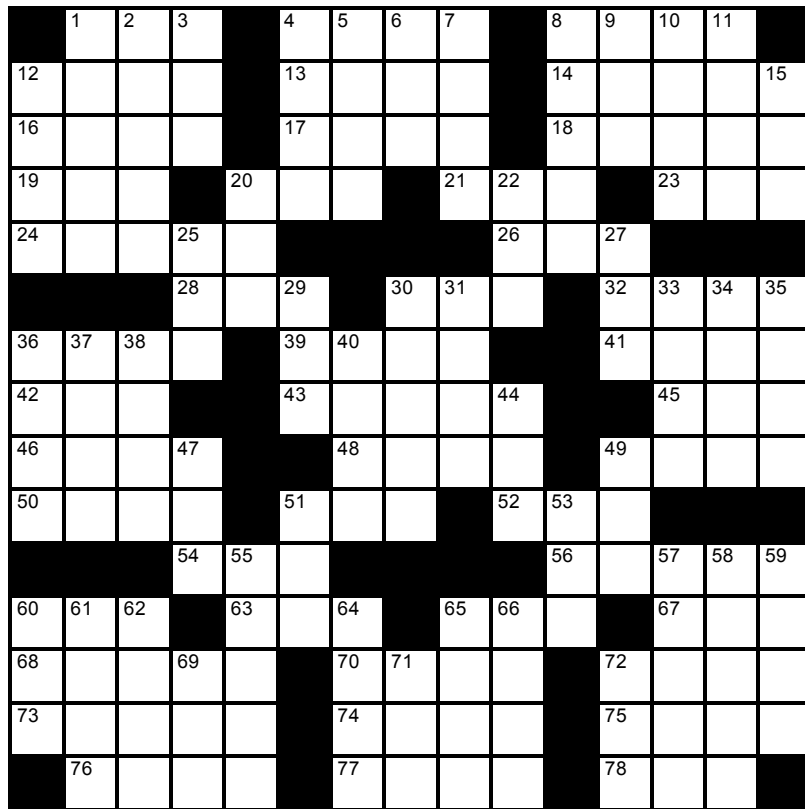
My family is celebrating a variety of holidays. It's part of our religious literacy activities. We want our son to know about the variety of ways humans have tried to understand the universe. We also want him to know why his parents choose to be humanists.

There are a lot of options to choose from, but we have chosen Humanism in large part because we respect the autonomy of individual humans. We cannot separate out our concern for humanity with our concern for human rights. The philosophy of Humanism goes hand in hand with the philosophy of Human Rights.

One of the interesting aspects of what I do is that I occasionally field inquiries from academics asking for help on subjects relevant to Humanism. Recently, an Islamic scholar asked for help on Humanism, Human Rights as it relates to Islam. As it turned out, I was able to help him. I probably won't get credit in the book he is writing on the subject, but you never know.

Here are the links I shared with him about Humanism, Humanism Rights and Islam - http://sumogirl.com/sumomambo/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=735&Itemid=63

Jennifer Hancock



Across

- 1. ___ again.
- 4. "... there is no ___ angel but Love": Shakespeare
- 8. Gift tag word
- 12. Loafer, e.g.
- 13. Ancestry
- 14. Kind of cycle
- 16. Kind of dealer
- 17. My mail was ___
- 18. Loosen
- 19. Assent
- 20. Clinch, with "up"
- 21. Undertake, with "out"
- 23. "That's ___ ..."
- 24. Taste, e.g.
- 26. Chair part
- 28. ___ green
- 30. Amiss
- 32. Exam type
- 36. Disney dog
- 39. Ado
- 41. Radial, e.g.
- 42. I am, they ___
- 43. Golf item
- 45. Calphalon product
- 46. Bungle, with "up"
- 48. Half a fortnight
- 49. Balance sheet item
- 50. Sit in the sun
- 51. Armageddon
- 52. Aloof
- 54. Balloon filler
- 56. Boxer's stat
- 60. QB's cry

**Freethought
Cruciverbalist**
By *Rick O'Keefe*

PUZZLER

- 63. Beaver's work
- 65. Swelter
- 67. Aircraft compartment
- 68. "All kidding ___..."
- 70. ___ Minor
- 72. Last, e.g.
- 73. TV, radio, etc.
- 74. "Stop that!"
- 75. 20-20, e.g.
- 76. Attends
- 77. Aims
- 78. Lent's start, e.g.: Abbr.

Down

- 1. Losing come-out roll in craps
- 2. Movie holiday
- 3. "Absolutely!"
- 4. "... or ___!"
- 5. Aspect
- 6. Setting for TV's "Newhart"
- 7. "___ go!"
- 8. "Peter and the Wolf" bird
- 9. Bleed
- 10. "I'm ___ you!"
- 11. Domestic
- 12. "___ who?"
- 15. Cabernet, e.g.
- 20. "Comprende?"
- 22. Hob
- 25. 007, for one
- 27. Caught
- 29. ___ Wednesday
- 30. Drunk, in slang
- 31. At liberty
- 33. Opportune
- 34. Kuwaiti, e.g.
- 35. Advanced
- 36. Follower of Mary
- 37. Length x width, for a rectangle
- 38. Secretary, e.g.
- 40. Burg
- 44. Schuss, e.g.
- 47. Caribbean, e.g.
- 49. Blonde's secret, maybe
- 51. Victorian, for one
- 53. Bawl
- 55. "Don't get any funny ___!"
- 57. Beyond's partner
- 58. Gave a fig
- 59. Mass number
- 60. ___ and cheese
- 61. A Swiss army knife has lots of them
- 62. All or Gain alternative
- 64. Earned
- 65. Discovery
- 66. "Darn it all!"
- 69. Conk out
- 71. "My boy"
- 72. Handful

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.

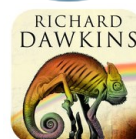
Everyone has to face this final question. But there are choices not provided by conventional institutions. For more information see:

<http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm> or www.compassionandchoices.org



CAMP INQUIRY
IMAGINE. INVESTIGATE. ILLUMINATE.
Click to register for next year
Ages 7-16, Holland, NY

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.



Robert Reich

[Robert Reich](#), one of the nation's leading experts on work and the economy, is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. He has served in three national administrations, most recently as secretary of labor under President Bill Clinton. Time Magazine has named him one of the ten most effective cabinet secretaries of the last century. He has written thirteen books, including his latest best-seller, [Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future](#); [The Work of Nations](#); [Locked in the Cabinet](#); [Supercapitalism](#); and his newest, [Beyond Outrage](#).

It's the season to show concern for the less fortunate among us. We should also be concerned about the widening gap between the *most* fortunate and everyone else. Although it's still possible to win the lottery (your chance of winning \$648 million in the recent Mega Millions sweepstakes was one in 259 million), the biggest lottery of all is what family we're born into. Our life chances are now determined to an unprecedented degree by the wealth of our parents.

That's not always been the case. The faith that anyone could move from rags to riches – with enough guts and gumption, hard work and nose to the grindstone – was once at the core of the American Dream. And equal opportunity was the heart of the American creed. Although imperfectly achieved, that ideal eventually propelled us to overcome legalized segregation by race, and to guarantee civil rights. It fueled efforts to improve all our schools and widen access to higher education. It pushed the nation to help the unemployed, raise the minimum wage, and provide pathways to good jobs. Much of this was financed by taxes on the most fortunate.

But for more than three decades we've been going backwards. It's far more difficult today for a child from a poor family to become a middle-class or wealthy adult. Or even for a middle-class child to become wealthy. The major reason is widening inequality. The longer the ladder, the harder the climb. America is now more unequal than it's been for eighty or more years, with the most unequal distribution of income and wealth of all developed nations. Equal opportunity has become a pipe dream.

Rather than respond with policies to reverse the trend and get us back on the road to equal opportunity and widely-shared prosperity, we've spent much of the last three decades doing the opposite. Taxes have been cut on the rich, public schools have deteriorated, higher education has become unaffordable for many, safety nets have been shredded, and the minimum wage has been allowed to drop 30 percent below where it was in 1968, adjusted for inflation. Congress has just passed a tiny bipartisan budget agreement, and the Federal Reserve has decided to wean the economy off artificially low interest rates. Both decisions reflect Washington's (and Wall Street's) assumption that the economy is almost back on track. But it's not at all back on the track it was on more than three decades ago.

It's certainly not on track for the record 4 million Americans now unemployed for more than six months, or for the unprecedented 20 million American children in poverty (we now have the highest rate of child poverty of all developed nations other than Romania), or for the third of all working Americans whose jobs are now part-time or temporary, or for the majority of Americans whose real wages continue to drop.

How can the economy be back on track when 95 percent of the economic gains since the recovery began in 2009 have gone to the richest 1 percent?

The underlying issue is a moral one: What do we owe one another as members of the same society? Conservatives answer that question by saying it's a matter of personal choice – of charitable works, philanthropy, and individual acts of kindness joined in “a thousand points of light.”

But that leaves out what we could and should seek to accomplish together as a society. It neglects the organization of our economy, and its social consequences. It minimizes the potential role of democracy in determining the rules of the game, as well as the corruption of democracy by big money. It overlooks our strivings for social justice.

In short, it ducks the meaning of a decent society.

Last month Pope Francis wondered aloud whether “trickle-down theories, which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness...”. Rush Limbaugh accused the Pope of being a Marxist for merely raising the issue.

But the question of how to bring about greater justice and inclusiveness is as American as apple pie. It has animated our efforts for more than a century – during the Progressive Era, the New Deal, the Great Society, and beyond — to make capitalism work for the betterment of all rather merely than the enrichment of a few.

The supply-side, trickle-down, market-fundamentalist views that took root in America in the early 1980s got us fundamentally off track. To get back to the kind of shared prosperity and upward mobility we once considered normal will require another era of fundamental reform, of both our economy and our democracy.



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

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



Rick O'Keefe

THE ETHICAL EXCELLENCES, *Our Responsibilities to Ourselves*

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

Created by Paul Kurtz

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

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



What is Tampa Bay Skeptics?

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

CFI c/o O'Keefe, 4011 S. Manhattan Ave., Box 139, Tampa, FL 33611-1277
 Or click to simply join our **TBS e-mail list(s)**? Or order **TBS T-shirts**?



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
 Sarasota, Florida

Calendar of Upcoming main events:

January 6: Mote Marine Presentation.

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

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

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

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

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the Humane use of technology.

And always, there is the occasional random act of Kindness.

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

Dave 'Doc' Dockery President,
 Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org

We repair our members computers!

Order this important new book now from **Amazon**
 By local Humanistic Counselor, **Linda Faulkner**



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 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)
- January is National Hot Tea Month

- 1st **New Years Day**
- 3rd. **Festival of Sleep Day**
- 9th **Play God Day**
- 10th **Peculiar People Day**
- 13th **International Skeptics Day**
- 15th **National Nothing Day**
- 16th **Opposite Day**
- 31st **Inspire your heart with Art 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

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Be Included!

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