

Tampa Humanist Association  
Center For Inquiry  
Clearwater UU Humanists  
Humanist Family Assoc.  
Americans United  
Tampa Bay Skeptics

# Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Humanist Society of the Suncoast  
Atheists of Florida  
T B Post Carbon Council  
Thinkers Discussion Group  
Military Atheists Assoc.  
USF Secular Alliance

## Freethought News

Volume 1 No. 1

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

June, 2012

### Charitable Organizations We Support

Since so many of the charitable dollars flowing through our area are dedicated to strictly religious support, here is a partial list of groups that secular organizations can support. Be secure in the knowledge that these efforts are made to provide for human welfare only. Tampa Bay Harvest, ACLU, NOW, Planned Parenthood, Museum of Science and Industry - Tampa, St Petersburg and Tampa Museums of Fine Art., Goodwill Industries, Nature Conservancy, and [more....](#)

# Welcome!

to a new era in the life of our Community of Reason. This newsletter is a result of a number of Tampa Bay area member organization's search for ways to more effectively address the issues we all face as we meet the future of our region, our country, and the world. We are not endowed with large treasuries or corporate sponsors. We are rich in the enthusiasm and hard work of our members. We welcome you to participate in the many events and programs you will find here and invent new ones.

**Freethought** is a philosophical approach that holds reliable knowledge should be formed on the basis of science, logic, and reason, and should not be based on authority, tradition, or unsubstantiated dogma. Freethought is the product of various individuals and organizations advocating a logically disciplined and coherent view of the physical universe and human experience. It strongly supports creative, innovative thinking. The Tampa Bay chapter of the **United Coalition of Reason** is part of a national effort to bring together such allied groups in an effort to lift the intellectual life of the nation to a higher, more rational level of conversation. Organizations holding this worldview are invited to join the coalition, where unity provides both strength and opportunity.

The organizations you will find here are dedicated to different parts of the puzzle of life and all have slightly different, but for the most part compatible, approaches to the great questions. On the calendar, you will find many opportunities to discover these approaches and to apply them to outline the realities of your world in a useful way. Feel free to write to us, or to any of the listed groups with your suggestions, critiques, ideas, and questions. Thinking will not make you rich, thin, happy, or successful, but it will be of considerable aid in becoming a more effective citizen of our world. JP



**CoR Leadership Team 2012**

Mark Brandt, Rob Byrch, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson

### Unified events planned across multi organizational lines.

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

**We welcome more organizations to join this Coalition**

[Directory](#)  
[Tampa Bay](#)  
[Coalition of](#)  
[Reason](#)

**Calendar:**  
Rick O'Keefe

**Website:**  
Rob Byrch

**Newsletter:**  
[Jim Peterson](#)

**Special Projects**  
Mark Brandt

### ~ Inside ~

**Unified Calendar . 2**  
**Ctr. For Inquiry ..3**  
**Humanist Society. 4**  
**Tampa Humanists 8**  
**Clearwater UU -**  
**Humanists ..... 10**  
**Humanist Families 11**  
**Atheists of FL ....12**

### Be Included!

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

[Jamestp@metrodirect.net](mailto:Jamestp@metrodirect.net)

For calendar items, include as much info as possible.

## June 2012 Calendar

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

Dates/times may change due to unforeseen reasons,  
Event details are on the Coalition of Reason website at:  
<http://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>

### Joint CFI & Brandon Atheists—BRANDON

Starts Saturday night, June 10th, at 7:00 PM  
Location: The Brass Tap, 775 Brandon Town Center, Brandon, FL  
[map](#): **RSVP** to Kathryn before Friday, June 9th, noon.

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



### The Humanist Society

Countryside Library, Clearwater [Map](#)  
at 2741 S.R. 580. Saturday, June 2nd at 2 PM  
will host a group discussion on The problems of our community. From this, a Social Policy statement may be adopted that will outline our objectives for the coming year. See pages [4](#) - [6](#) for more.

### CFI Skeptics—Humanists BRANDON

Location, time & place: TBA See page [3](#)!  
More info at: <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>  
**RSVP** to Carl at (813) 661-0633 or [here](#).



Saturday, June 23, 7 PM. This day is the 100th birthday of pioneer scientist and atheist, Alan Turing. Come celebrate a major inventor of computing machines, and the English hero who deciphered Hitler's Enigma, with English cheer at [Fox and Hound British Pub](#). British law forced him to chemical castration, resulting in his suicide, just for being gay; and now they have a national postage stamp honoring him. **RSVP** to Carl at (813) 661-0633 or [here](#).

### UU Clearwater Humanists—CLEARWATER

No activity scheduled at this time. Check this calendar.  
Location: Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater,  
2470 Nursery Blvd., Clearwater, FL  
Info and map to UUC: <http://uuclearwater.org/>

For more information, folks can contact Bill Norsworthy at 687-9867 or Mark Brandt at 560-0971. **RSVP** to Mark for most events at [mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu)

### Tampa Bay Thinkers Discussion Group CARROLLWOOD CULTURAL CENTER

Monday June 21st at **6:30 pm** RSVP at the website.  
A variety of contemporary issues are discussed in depth. Details can be seen on our [Meetup](#) site. If you will be going, please bring a potluck snack, or picnic-type treat.

Location: Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Rd,  
Carrollwood, FL 33618 (NW Tampa)  
Click for a [MAP](#) to the Center.

### THA German Cuisine Night—NEW TAMPA/USF

Starts Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at **6:00 pm**  
Location: Mr. Dunderbak's Beer Garden, 14929 Bruce B.  
Downs Blvd., Tampa FL 33613 (813) 977-4104

Come and enjoy German food and a wide variety of beers with your fellow freethinkers. If you like Red cabbage, potato pancakes, sandwiches and other gustatory delights ..., this is for you. Usually, every 3rd Wednesday is our German Beer night.

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

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

**RSVP required:** "reply" or call (813) 388-5065 by **5 PM, Monday**, June 11th so we can reserve space. Subject to cancellation if insufficient interest.

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

### Tampa Humanist Association—NEW TAMPA



Starts Saturday, June 16th, 2012 at **11:00 am**  
Location: Jimmie B. Keele Library, 2902 W.  
Bearss Avenue, Wesley Chapel, FL  
MAP: Jimmie B. Keele Library

This is a joint meeting with the [Art Film Meetup](#) (click for [details](#)). **RSVP** before 12 AM, June 15 to 813.388.5065 or [RobertByrch@TampaHumanist.com](mailto:RobertByrch@TampaHumanist.com) before noon, Friday, June 14.

### CFI Skeptics/Humanists in the Pub—DUNEDIN

Monday, June 25, 6:00 PM  
Café Alfresco, 344 Main Street, Dunedin, FL 34698  
[Map](#), [menu](#), [etc](#).

Our monthly Dunedin gathering is a congenial affair, with far-ranging discussions and good humor. Join us! Voted "Best Restaurant on the Pinellas Trail 2009" by *Tampa Bay Magazine*. **RSVP is required** if you are coming so we can reserve enough space. Seating is limited! [Click here](#) before noon, June 24 (Sunday) ([Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net](mailto:Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net)).

### Art Film Meetup:

#### Significant Humanist Films

Always See [website](#) for updated info.

Saturday June 16th -with the Tampa Humanists (above)

#### [The Invisible War](#)

**RSVP** if you are coming. Seating is limited! Email: [DaleFried@aol.com](mailto:DaleFried@aol.com)

### National Conferences:

June 7 - 10 - American Humanist Association's 71st Annual Conference, New Orleans [Register online](#) or by phone at **800-837-3792**.

**Need Psychological Counseling?** For a secular therapist, see: <https://www.therapistproject.org/index.php>





People ask,

# “What is CFI-Tampa Bay?”

A good and thorough answer is found on our Web site, <http://CenterForInquiry.net/Tampa>. This will help: **The mission of the Center for Inquiry** is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry and humanist values. CFI-TB is a local branch of the premier worldwide Secular Humanist and Skeptics association based in Amherst (Buffalo), NY, founded by Paul Kurtz.

Our all-volunteer branch promotes lectures in cooperation with other like-minded associations, has several area socials monthly, participates in civic events promoting our mission, and supports fact-based education for all ages, and especially politicians.

Our success in building the growth of Freethought and inter-association cooperation depends upon paid and active memberships. Let me ask you, if you aren't a paid member of your favorite association, what can the rest of us think? If you can go to meetings, why won't you volunteer to help? Why not have some fun while doing good?

## CFI Challenges Indiana's Religious Privilege in Solemnizing Marriages

The Center for Inquiry (CFI) filed a complaint in the United States District Court challenging an Indiana law that privileges religious institutions in the solemnizing of marriages. Indiana code 31-11-6-1 specifies that marriages in Indiana may be solemnized only by a small number of secular elected officials and a large number of clergy or other persons associated with religious organizations.

CFI, a national organization advocating on behalf of science and secular values, believes the law is unconstitutional on the grounds that it allows all manner of religious leaders to celebrate marriages, and allows persons of faith to be married by religious leaders of their choice, while denying these opportunities to persons who desire a nonreligious celebration by a Secular Celebrant. This represents a preference for religion over non-religion in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, and denies rights secured by the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

“I have had many couples contact me over the years who are not religious and are seeking someone to solemnize their marriage who represents their life stance,” said Reba Boyd Wooden, Co-Director of the Secular Celebrant program for Center for Inquiry and Executive Director of Center for Inquiry-Indiana. “Some are religious but simply do not want a religious wedding. Some have family of different religions, and want a secular wedding to avoid conflicts. Indiana couples should have this option.”

Center for Inquiry established a program to train Secular Celebrants in December 2009. Currently there are 23 Secular Celebrants who have been trained and certified by CFI. Eight are from Indiana and others hail from 10 other states and the District of Columbia. However, since Center for Inquiry is not a religious organization, these Secular Celebrants cannot solemnize marriages in Indiana or any place in the United States under this certification alone.

**Video:** For your pleasure, here is an excellent overview of **Richard Dawkins** on YouTube:

<http://tinyurl.com/72xkhj5>

**For you Brandon folks,** a social: June 23 is the 100th birthday of pioneer scientist and atheist, Alan Turing. Come celebrate the inventor of computing machines, and the English hero who deciphered Hitler's Enigma, with English cheer at Fox and Hound British Pub in Brandon. Get a meal and 2 drinks for just \$9.99 there on Saturday nights. British law forced Turing to chemical castration, resulting in his suicide, just for being gay; and now they have a national postage stamp honoring him. Cheers, beers and queers! See you Saturday night, June 23, at 7:00 PM! *To take part in our activities,* join our Meetup at <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>

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

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



# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

## Join us for our annual Social Issues Conference.

The rate of change is rapidly accelerating in our world. The changes are sometimes dramatic and often threatening to the values we support. But it is nonetheless the order of the day.

We ourselves are about change after all. We consider that those changes we propose will act to the benefit of humanity. And this is an opportunity for us to raise new questions to consider and submit for adoption as an expression of our social policy objectives.

During this discussion, let's keep in mind that we are a 501c3 group, and thus can neither recommend or denounce candidates, or political parties per se. But ideas, cultural preferences, trends, laws, regulations, and policies are all fair game for analysis and criticism.

This is your hour to vent; your time to shine. You may propose any statement you want for the group's consideration. If the majority of paid members present give it the thumbs up after discussion, then it becomes part of our announced policy positions. The AHA already has a number of policy positions covering a great many general concerns, and it may be more effective to focus on local concerns. So let's think of the priorities that most effect the people of our area.

As Humanists, it is our announced intention to be ombudsmen for the promotion of human well being. Taking part and even initiating discussions of the problems around us are a large measure of our responsibility as Humanists to be advocates for greater good of the people of our own community.

Get creative! Join in.

JP

## Remember... we meet

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



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

**There is 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,  
June 2nd  
at 2 PM:**

**Clearwater Country  
-side 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.

Volume 20 No. 6

June, 2012

## Volunteer !

If we are truly to make a difference in an often indifferent world, we will have to constantly renew our efforts.

Even if you have an active work and family life, there are always opportunities in ways large and small to be a leader in helping to right the world, to heal its wounds, and to create a place fit for gentle people to inhabit.

Nor is retirement the end of activity, but the beginning of putting your energy and efforts into the things that truly matter.

If you think that the basic philosophical outlook of Humanism can make a major contribution to human well being at all levels, it is time to join us as a volunteer to put your beliefs to work.

**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**



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

## What is the Humanist Way?

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

## Our monthly social dinner,

The Moveable Feast for June will be:

### *Rumba Island Bar & Grill*

1800 Gulf-To-Bay Blvd Clearwater  
(N.E. Corner of G-T-B & Keene)  
Sunday, June 24th, 2012 @ 5:00 P.M.

This restaurant has a variety of early bird specials. Seafood, Barbecue and Caribbean \$9 and up per entree

Please reserve by June 23rd.

**Contact** Glenn Paul by the 23rd at 727-595-3347 or email at [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com).

## *Laugh Lines Fearless Predictions*

"Man will never reach the moon regardless of all future scientific advances."

-- Dr. Lee DeForest, "Father of Radio & Grandfather of Television."

"The bomb will never go off. I speak as an expert in explosives."

-- Admiral William Leahy, US Atomic Bomb Project

"There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom."

-- Robert Millikan, Nobel Prize in Physics, 1923

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."

-- Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."-- Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."--The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what is it good for?" -- Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody."

-- Bill Gates, 1981

This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us,"

-- Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"

-- David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

6/12

Thanks to Bob Collette

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

### Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

**Steve Brown, VP**

**Jim Butler**

**Robert Byrch**

**Terry Eckstien**

**Lois Fries, Secretary**

**Jon Green**

**Jim Peterson, President**

**Frank Prah**

**Marios Psomas, treasurer**

**Emeritus members:** Anita Garcia,

Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore, Mark

Winterbottom, Bob Collette, Glenn

Paul, Don Acenbrach, Jackie Jordan,

Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard, Matt

Cooper

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

**Jim Butler Publisher.**

**Jim Peterson, Editor**

E-Mail us at:

[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

### Brighten a Day

for a member of our family

As we get older, we get better, but sometimes there's just that little hiccup that might dampen our enthusiasm slightly. Then we need each other ... just a little more.

**Bob Collette & Dot** are always glad hear from you.

Meanwhile, **Matt Cooper, Ace Acenbrach, Rob Byrch**, are also down at the upholstery shop, recovering from various afflictions.

*If you can, send our fellow members a note or call, and let them know you are concerned. Humanist Helping Hands on page 6 offers practical help to members requesting it.*

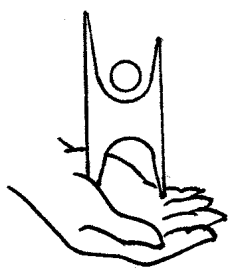
**Contact me if you know someone who should be listed.**

**Jim Peterson**

Click on names to launch e-mail



# A Humanist Helping Hand



Several members have formed a caring response team to help any 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 member below if you wish to participate.

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

Contact any of them if you feel you or someone in your Humanist group may need help.

## ~ Join or Renew ~

*The Humanist Society  
of the Suncoast.  
Annual Dues*

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

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Privacy respected)

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



## Our Humanist Traveling Library

Thanks once again to the great and generous efforts of **Matt Cooper**, now hosted by **Dale Friedley**, we are able to offer a great selection of fine Humanist books, that often are not found in local libraries. 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 collection. Matt has "paid it forward", now it's your turn.

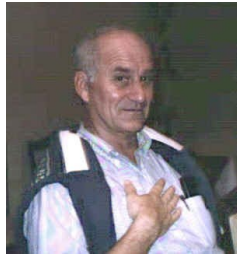
**Our Humanist Society is actively looking for interesting speakers with novel and well thought out ideas on just about any subject of interest to a general audience - even if not from a distinctly Humanist perspective.**

Let any board member know if you would like to recommend a speaker or topic. Call [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

## Here's a chance to do some good

by 'clicking on' to some various websites daily. It only takes about 1 minute each day to click onto [thebreastcancersite.com](http://thebreastcancersite.com), [thehungersite.com](http://thehungersite.com) and about 6 more worthy websites each day, each of which produces income for the site, and costs you nothing but a minute of your time. Please consider doing it daily - it is a gift that keeps on giving. I have been helping these websites for almost ten years.

**Glenn Paul**



## Read Humanist Periodicals:

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

## Humanist Quotes

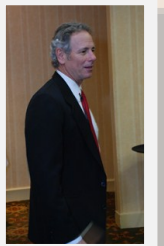
“There is no humanist creed, no set of beliefs to which every humanist has to subscribe. Humanism is not a dogma or a sect...as human beings we can find from our own resources the shared moral values which we need in order to live together, and the means to create meaningful and fulfilling lives for ourselves.”

**Richard Norman**, [On Humanism](#)  
[\(Thinking in Action\)](#)



John Keiffer:

# Atheist on Trial



Polk County has relented. Local prosecutors decided after over a year of threats, to back down on all but one charge. His supposed crime was that he talked and walked around before the meeting of the Polk School board. His real transgression consisted of not paying proper deference to a local minister leading prayers at this secular government meeting.

It seems likely that John will not now serve any jail time for this, but he has lost over 40 thousand dollars trying to defend himself.

This execrable action summons the outrage of all people who hold a high regard for a truly secular and fair government.

Interested people can check the columns of the [Tampa Bay Examiner](#). Those wishing to help John's legal fund can send a contribution via the Chip-in Website at:

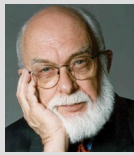
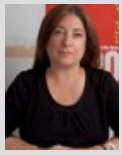
<http://johnkieffer.chipin.com/john-kieffer-legal-defense>



The AHA conference will be held in new Orleans Louisiana this year, which is convenient for Floridians.



Gloria Steinem  
*Humanist of the Year*



Reserve the date now. For

**June 7th through the 10th.**

**Register online or by phone at 800-837-3792.**

Ira Flatow

Debra Sweet

Cenk Uygur

James Randi

Isaac Asimov Science Award

Humanist Heroine Award

Humanist Media Award

Lifetime Achievement Award



## Bank of Wisdom

*Electronic publishing to make the world better*

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>

## economichumanrights.org

POOR PEOPLE'S ECONOMIC HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Contact: Rev. Bruce Wright

Phone: 727 278 1547

Email: [bgcwright@aol.com](mailto:bgcwright@aol.com) or Cheri Honkala at:

[cherihonkalaPPERHC@gmail.com](mailto:cherihonkalaPPERHC@gmail.com) Phone: 267 344 6318

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

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



**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:Rodrick Colbert) or [freethinkersusf@gmail.com](mailto:freethinkersusf@gmail.com) for details.





## FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU Supporters,

They are just relentless.

Corporations and government agencies are trying to use their influence to get carte-blanche access to our private data.

And if we let CISPA — the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act — become law, that's exactly what they'll get — nearly complete access to everything we do online.

### **Urge your senators to vote NO on CISPA and any other legislation that would let the military collect our private internet records.**

CISPA already passed the House. But if we don't take a stand in the Senate, **companies could soon have access to share our sensitive and private information with military agencies, including the National Security Agency.**

CISPA effectively allows them to gain access to our personal information without a warrant, without oversight, and without limits, and the Senate may soon vote on proposals that go just as far.

Those are rules we can't live by. We deserve better privacy laws. And we demand a better bill than CISPA.

We need to make our voices heard: Tell your senators that you **oppose any legislation that would allow the military to use personal information to spy on Americans.**

**People**  
Over Politics

See All Humanist Society newsletters from the past 5 years: <http://suncoasthumanist.com>

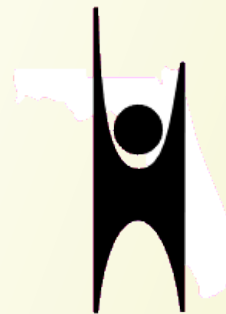
## *Tampa Humanist Association*

Join us Saturday, June 16, 2012, 11:00 AM

**Film: *The Invisible War* With an introduction by Dale Friedley**

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library  
Look for the Happy Humanist sign.  
2902 West Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL

The Tampa Humanist Association meets on the third Saturday every month at the Jimmie B Keel Library, 2902 West Bearss Avenue in Tampa at 11.00 am.



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

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

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

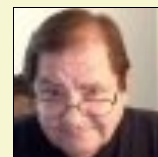
Or our website: <http://www.tampahumanist.com>

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

Located in Tampa, Florida, the THA brings together humanists and non-theists of all stripes together toward the cause of progressive social change. We are a new organization, incorporated as a 501(C3), Not-For-Profit Corporation under the laws of the state of Florida. We have recently filed to become a charter member of the American Humanist Association, headquartered in Washington, DC. AHA, with their extensive local and national [media contacts](#), their lobbying and [coalition efforts](#) on Capitol Hill and the efforts of our [grassroots activists](#), will ensure that the humanist point of view is represented in the halls of power, down on Main Street, and everywhere in-between. THA participates in AHA's [annual conference](#) which draws hundreds of humanists from across the U.S. to hear world-renowned speakers, connect with fellow non-theists and have a say in the future of the organization. Through our Charter Membership with AHA, we work alongside other national organizations in the community of reason, and also reach out to our progressive allies to work on issues of common concern. Working with our sister organization, the *Humanist Society of the Suncoast* and the Tampa Branch of *Center for Inquiry* and other organizations within the United Coalition of Reason, it is THA's intention to enlarge the voice of humanism within the Tampa Bay region.

### **Officers and board of THA:**

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



**Our world** may be microscopic in the realm of a multitude of universes but it is the reality that we, as humans, inhabit, and; it behooves us to make it the best place that we can, for ourselves and our successors. Man carries within him the audacity, courage and stamina to believe that, in time, all obstacles can be overcome. We are made from stardust and those universes are beckoning us to be at home!  
*Robert Byrch - 2012*



# Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future



## Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area

Americans United,\* Tampa Humanist Association, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Center for Inquiry, UU Humanists Clearwater, UU Humanists Tampa,\* Secular Student Alliance USF,\* Atheists of Florida, Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought ideas and principles. (\*= not currently members of the Coalition)

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

**Calendar:**  
Rick O'Keefe

**Newsletter:**  
[Jim Peterson](#)

**Website:**  
Rob Byrch

**Special Projects**  
Mark Brandt

For several years now, various leaders of the freethought community in the bay area have been meeting informally to share experiences, and occasionally to coordinate plans. But recently, changing circumstances have brought additional pressure to cooperate in bringing programs and members services to an expanding movement. At this point leaders continue to meet, and together with the various boards of directors and committees, try to develop policies that will enable every group to enhance its unique role in serving its members. There appears to be general agreement on developing several community wide programs over the year that will allow significant speakers to be presented in our area. The costs of these programs will be shared among the organizations proportionally.

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

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

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

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



TBPCC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society. In February of 2012, council members presented **a course on Post Carbon issues** at the University of South Florida. We showed that there are likely to be dramatic changes in the way we live in the intermediate future.

**If** current trends continue . . .

- The population of the United States will increase to over 600 million by 2080, and in 2150 it will equal China's present size.
- World population will achieve 14 billion by the year 2075 and 30 billion by 2150.
- By 2030 China will be absorbing all available global oil exports, leaving none for the US or Europe.
- China's economy will surpass the size of the present global economy before 2050.
- In 2072, the federal debt will amount to \$896 trillion, or \$1,629,091 for each American (assuming a US population then of 550 million).
- Thanks to the doubling of US households living on less than \$2 per person per day between 1996 and 2011, in 150 years there will be about 1.5 billion Americans living on practically no income.
- The number of billionaires in the world (having grown from 793 to 1210 in just two years, from 2009 to 2011) will equal the world population in only 70 years. (Given the previous trend, this is especially gratifying news: since the **rate** of growth in the number of billionaires in the world exceeds the rate of growth in extreme poverty in the US, this means each American will become a billionaire *before* his or her grandchildren plunge into desperate poverty).

...**If** current trends continue! Will they? The points above are true, but an invitation to skepticism. Don't be manipulated by statistics, but do be aware of the significant problems to which they point.

We invite you to become a member of the Council, and make a difference in the quality of our lives. Click below for more:  
[www.tampabaypostcarbon.com](http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com)

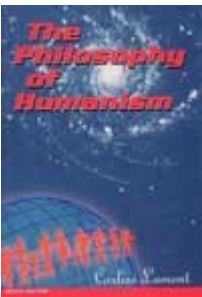
# Humanist Books from the AHA

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



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

**The Philosophy of Humanism** - Corliss Lamont



\$16.95

By Dr. Corliss Lamont.

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

**Why Was I Born?**



\$5.00

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

A Humanistic view of life by Lyle J Simpson.

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



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

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

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

**Find out more about end of life issues.** Everyone has to face this final question. But there are choices not provided by conventional institutions. For more information see: <http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm> & [www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org)

## 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 the secular aspects of humanism. Programs have been well received with attendance between 50 and 75 individuals. To learn more about the group, please contact:

Co-facilitators:

Bill Norsworthy [bnorsworthy@verizon.net](mailto:bnorsworthy@verizon.net)

Mark Brandt [mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu)

Website: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)



Non-UU members are welcome to visit and become a UU humanist without becoming a member of UU Clearwater.

Clearwater, Florida



*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.

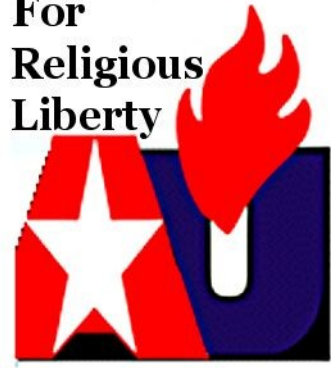
The Florida National Organization for Women (NOW) is in strong opposition to the Personhood Amendment ballot initiative for which the organization Personhood Florida is currently collecting signatures, according to Florida NOW president Donna Slutiak. "This amendment is ridiculous and an insult to women," 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.



A Tradition of Advocacy

For  
Religious  
Liberty



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

For more information, see: <http://www.au.org/>  
The Chapter meets at Good Samaritan Church located at 6085 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park (61st St.). The next meeting is September 10, at 7:00 PM. We are working for the defeat of Amendment 8, the so called Freedom of Religion Amendment. It allows tax payer funds to support religious schools & organizations. Also, we will be contacting local churches to remind them of the legal dos and don'ts concerning pulpit electioneering.

## The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



Nontheistic service members serve honorably throughout the world—always have; always will. However, nontheists are the last unprotected minority. The nontheistic, whether an atheist, humanist, agnostic, freethinker, or other secular minority, have a strong community. Jason Torpy, a West Point graduate, serves as president of MAAF. He also holds seats on the boards of the Secular Coalition for America and the American Humanist Association.

On the web at: [www.maaf.info](http://www.maaf.info)

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

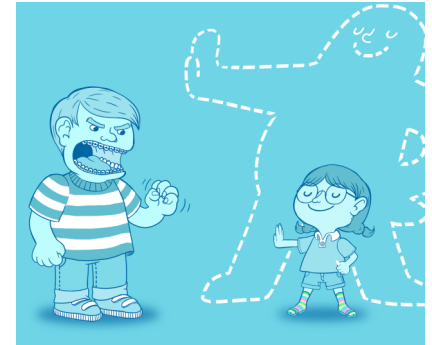
**Humanist Families** organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings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



## Living Life as a Humanist

Being a moral person isn't about the big good vs. evil decisions. Those are easy to make. The real challenge of moral living is doing the right thing when the



stakes are low. In other words, a moral person does the right thing because it's the right thing to do and not just because it's convenient. Moral people don't do the right thing to make themselves look good, though that is obviously a benefit. They do the right thing because they understand they are responsible for their actions and they find value and pride in doing their part, however small, to make the world a slightly better place.

Jennifer Hancock from: Shopping Cart Morality  
<http://humanisthappiness.blogspot.com/2012/04/shopping-cart-morality.html>



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

# Atheists of Florida



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

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

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

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

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

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



## Institute for Science and Human Values

*Inspired by Empathy, Creativity and guided by Reason*

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

### Vote on Paycheck Fairness Act Coming Soon!

For the next 48 hours ISHV is joining forces with organizations across the country to turn up the heat on the Senate in support of equal pay.

#### What's the rush?

We expect a vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act in the coming weeks. Our senators need to hear from us now. For the next 48 hours (starting right now and throughout today and Wednesday), we want to jam the phones to send a clear message of support for the Paycheck Fairness Act.

When asked how Humanists can change the culture we say, "Participate in your government by letting your representatives know what we stand for  
 Equality for all."

This is your time to do so! **Vote on Paycheck Fairness Act Coming Soon!**

For the next 48 hours ISHV is joining forces with organizations across the country to turn up the heat on the Senate in support of equal pay.

#### Here's all you have to do:

- 1) Dial 1-888-876-9527. Listen for instructions on how to connect to your senator's office.
- 2) Listen to the sample script and follow the instructions for connecting to your senator's office.
- 3) Don't neglect your other senator. Call back and make sure she/he gets a call too!
- 4) Double your impact by forwarding this message to a friend.

#### Why is this important?

The Paycheck Fairness Act would deter wage discrimination by updating the nearly 50-year-old Equal Pay Act and barring retaliation against workers who disclose their own wages to coworkers. It's hard to believe, but no federal law broadly prohibits employers from penalizing or even firing employees just for talking about their salaries.

Remember Lilly Ledbetter? She was told on her first day of work at Goodyear to never discuss her salary with anyone. It wasn't until she found an anonymous note in her locker that Lilly realized that she was being paid as much as 40 percent less than her male colleagues in the same position. This is exactly why these pay secrecy policies that punish employees and help hide discrimination need to go!

Every call counts! The more calls, the more pressure, the better the results. Please take action today by calling 1-888-876-9527.

Thanks for all you do for half the humans on the planet!

### Holidays of Special Interest to Freethinkers

- **June 19<sup>th</sup>** – Juneteenth, Emancipation day - an annual celebration of freedom & diversity in [St Petersburg](#), and nationally.
- **June 21<sup>st</sup>** - [World Humanist Day](#)
- **June 30<sup>th</sup>** – [Gay Pride](#) march in St. Pete