

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethoug

Volume 2 No. 6 June 2013 Jim Peterson, Editor

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Tampa Bay **Coalition of Reason**

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Speaker of the Month...



Teresa MacBain, Executive Director of the Humanists of Florida Association

Leadership of the bay area's humanist, secular, and atheist organizations are invited to hear the newly inaugurated leader of the Florida regional humanist association. She will address the challenges we face. See Page 7 for more.

She will speak on **Sunday**, **June 16th** at 12:30 in the Octagon Center of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater facility on 2470 Nursery Road in Clearwater.

The UU Humanists of Clearwater have graciously invited all members of the organizations associated with Tampa Bay CoR to attend.

The twenty six year old Florida Humanist Association is one of the oldest continuously operating humanist associations in Florida. It has recently undergone some substantive changes that gives many of its supporters renewed hope that the group can once again provide a broad and unifying presence in the state.

Please come to learn how greater cooperation and friendship can benefit all of us.

Ω



Calls to Action to preserve our secular way of life.

- ☐ Local/at-large representatives from around the state are needed to help with our outreach and communications efforts.
- ☐ Secular invocations Florida House and Senate. Projects
- ☐ Are there bibles in Florida State Parks?
- ☐ Reaching out to local Florida freethought organizations and individuals

Dates and Resources for June

- ☐ facebook.com/secularCoalitionFor Florida
- ☐ Prayer at government meetings to be heard by **SCOTUS**
- ☐ Keep eyes on Westboro Baptist Church Florida
- o facebook.com/events/122243214637363
- ☐ June 6 Atheist Pride Day Wear green!
- o facebook.com/pages/Atheist-Pride-Day/111407762279403
- ☐ June 29 Atheists monument to be placed at **Bradford County Courthouse**
- ☐ October/November Humanists of Florida Conference.

Sign up on our website to receive info and updates for the state

- o Sign up for National alerts and updates
- o Email **florida@secular.org** if you are interested in leadership or volunteerism or if you have any Florida events to share or questions about SCA-FL

Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

Rick O'Keefe, CFI certified, Virginia Kohl-Lieberman, AHA certified

TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON – JUNE, 2013 CALENDAR

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

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

06-01 Monday, 6:30 PM

06-01, Saturday, 2 PM

Monthly

06-TBA 7 PM

06-09, Sunday, 7 PM

06-09, Sunday, 1:00 PM

06-16. Sunday. 12:30 AM

06-TBA 6:30 PM

06-17, Monday, 6:30 PM

06-13, Thursday, 7 PM

Every 2 weeks in North Tampa

06,- 16 Sunday

06-16- Sunday, 12:30 PM

06-27 Monday, 7:00 PM,

06-22, Saturday 11:30 AM

06 29- Saturday 11 AM



Humanists of Sarasota Bay http://sarasota.humanists.net/

CLEARWATER-The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Humanist Families of Tampa

See our website for more information on the many activities scheduled throughout the month..

Countryside Library 2741 S.R 580 Clearwater, FL MAP

Check for events and developments.

Sarasota. Lecture series.

Program: See page 3 for details

at the Roskamp Center 1226 N. Tamiami Trail

For more information, see our Facebook page



S. PINELLAS-**Pinellas County Skeptics**

BRANDON-Joint CFI & Brandon Atheists To be determined. See the website.

Monthly skeptical dinner

See Meetup for the venue. **RSVP** to Kathryn before noon of the Friday, preceeding the social.

http://www.meetup.com/cfi-tampa-bay



TAMPA-Atheists of Florida-Tampa Chapter Web: http://atheistsoffloridainc.org

Atheists of Florida Office 5103 South Westshore Blvd Tampa, FL (just four blocks south of Gandy Blvd., west side.)

Details & RSVP at our Meetup site: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-<u>Tampabay/</u> Blog: http://aofla.wordpress.com

TAMPA-**Tampa Humanist Association**

Program: **TBA**. See page 7. http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/



New Film Event Tampa Bay Humanist Film freaks See Meetup for location

See **RSVP** for details:



CARROLLWOOD-**Tampa Bay Thinkers Discussion** Group

Carrollwood Cultural Center 4537 Lowell Rd, Carrollwood, FL 33618 MAP RSVP at Web site.

Click to **RSVP**

PCS

N. PINELLAS-**Pinellas County Skeptics** For details & to RSVP, see the website.

Monthly skeptical dinner

Café

Café Philo

Check website for current times & locations

Philosophical discussion group in Tampa

BRANDON-

CFI Skeptic/Humanist Mixer RSVP (required).

See the **Meetup** for details & the

Every third Sunday of each month.

CLEARWATER-**UU Humanists**

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Clearwater 2470 Nursery Road

Clearwater, FL 33764 MAP

http://www.uuclearwater.org/newindex.htm



North Pinellas CFI Skeptics/ **Humanists Social**

See the **Meetup** for details & the RSVP (required) before noon of the Sunday preceeding the social..

RSVP is required if you are coming. Seating is limited to 12! Click here before noon, xxx (Sunday). Click HERE.



NW Hillsborough / West Chase **CFI Share** Readers Book Discussion

Upper Tampa Bay Regional Library 11211 Countryway Blvvd. Tampa, FL 33626 MAP

A group of us like minded book lovers will gather monthly to discuss we've all read. RSV & details: www.meetup.com/cfi-tampa-



ampa Bay Tampa Bay Skeptics **Quarterly meeting**

Jan Platt Regional Library on 3910 South Manhattan Ave, Tampa FL

Main Program (tentatively): Videos, videos, videos! Plus "Open Forum" and other fun stuff.



he Humanist Societ of the Suncoast News

A Socratic society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is well worth living. Associate organization of the <u>Humanists of Florida</u>, the <u>AHA</u>, <u>COR</u>, and <u>CSH</u>. Find us at <u>www.suncoasthumanist.com</u>

Can You tell the World Who You are?



Come on in: Let's talk about it...

You may have heard about the recent CNN live interview after the tornado---Wolf Blitzer spoke to Rebecca Vitsmun after her decision to leave Moore, Okla. at the last-minute to avoid the tornado that ultimately destroyed her own home. Blitzer asked, "You've gotta thank the Lord, right?" Carrying her baby in her arms, Rebecca replied, "I'm actually an atheist."

Rebecca didn't let Wolf Blitzer assume she "thanked the Lord," even though it would have been easier to do, and in so doing showed that you can be good without a god.

The response from our Humanists to the CNN story was already overwhelming: many American Humanist Association members saw the CNN interview and are contributing to support Rebecca directly.

But the question for all of us is the always tricky, difficult, and potentially painful one of how much can we candidly reveal about our true position on important areas that challenge conventional ways of thinking. If we play it "safe" then we may come to regret a lost opportunity to contribute to opening the larger society to necessary change. On the other hand, we could jeopardize our personal position in a world that has often little tolerance for difference.

Note! We will be on hiatus for the month of July. We will resume pondering the venerable questions in August.



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

An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. There is increasing hunger here in our community. Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food or checks for:

> Tampa Bay Harvest

Please join us for this free and open discussion.

> Saturday, June 1st.

at 2 PM:

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

Following our meeting, many of us will dine and argue together at the

Greek City Cafe,

June, 2013 Volume 21 No. 6

Latest books from the Matt Cooper Humanist Library. Simply select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to Marios Psomas at:

marios psomas@hotmail.com. Then pick it up at the next meeting. Be sure to return it!

TITLE

1. The Expanding Circle

2. In Gods we Trust

3. Why Evolution is True

4. The Second World 5. Denialism

6. The Selfish Gene

7. Democracy Incorporated

8. The Upside Irrationality

9. The End of Growth 10. The God Delusion

11. All That We Share

12. Sex, Time, and Power

13. Sex at Dawn

14. What liberal Media 15. The End of Faith

16. Plan B

17. The Portable Atheist

18 Open Society

19. Non Believer Nation

20. God on Trial

21. Natural Experiments of History

22. The Missionary Position

23. Life Inc.

24. A brief History of Time

Breaking the Spell

The Philosophy of Humanism

The Quotable Atheist

Mathematics and Politics

30. Stealing Elections

31. The God Virus

32. 33.

Imagine There's no Heaven 34 Hidden Order

What the Dog Saw

36 Sway

The Better Angels of our Nature

Letter to a Young Contrarian 38

Hot, Flat, and Crowded

Gaming the Vote

41. Subversion Fable

Evolution and the Big Question 43.

Why People Believe Weird Things

The World is Curved 45

46 The Snow Ball

The Moral Landscape 47.

48 How We Believe

Full House

50. The Origins of Political Order

AUTHOR

Peter Singer Scott Atran Jerry Coyne Panag Khanna Michael Specter Richard Dawkins Sheldon Wolin Dan Ariely Richard Heinberg Richard Dawkins Jay Wallgasper Leonard Shlain

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George Soros David Niose

Peter Irons Diamond-Robinson

Christopher Hitchens Douglas Rushkoff Stephen Hawkins

Daniel Dennett Corliss Lamont Jack Huberman

28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God. G. Harrison

Alan Taylor John Fund

Darrel Ray What Every American Should Know About Rest of World. Rossi

Editors of Free Inquiry

David Friedman Malcom Gladwell Ori, Rom Brafman

Steven Pinker Christopher Hitchens Thomas Friedman

William Poundstone Alexa KcKearing David Stamos

Michael Shermer David Snick Warren Buffett

Sam Harris Michael Shermer Steven Jay Gould

and **26** letters

Francis Fukuyama

SCIENCE **VERSUS** RELIGION To understand everything, all you need

is 10 numbers

which is accurate to the exact extent

that every lie has access to that

same truth.

Demaris Gaunt

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

Humanist Society monthly social dinner,

The Moveable Feast for June will be at:

Savory Restaurant

located at 12881 Walsingham Road at the east end of a small strip Mall near the big Baptist church in Largo on Sunday June 16th at 5:00PM. Walsingham is an extension of Ulmerton and this red and yellow colored restaurant is located at the junction of the two with a bright sign out front.

The Savory is a rather low priced eatery offering everything from soups, salads, sandwiches, eggs, pizza, pasta with many low priced dinners and plenty of Italian dishes under \$10 - a good wide range of affordable food. Beer and wine is available also.

To confirm your reservation, call or write Glenn Paul at kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-595-3347 by Saturday June 15th.

Laugh Lines Words for the wise (acres)

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

~~~ Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

---- Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

~~~ The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

~~ I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

~~~~ Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

----- I dialed a number and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

~~~~ At pilots training back in the Air Corps they taught us, "Always try to keep the number of landings you make equal to the number of take offs you make."

~~~~ Aspire to inspire before you expire.

Thanks to: Rick O'Keefe 6/13

# HUMANIST SUNCOAST

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

#### Board of Directors. Meets Sept., December, April

Lois Fries, Secretary **Anita Garcia Dave Kovar Beth Maxie** Jim Peterson, President Frank Prahl Marios Psomas, treasurer Jordan Williams

Emeritus members: Terry Eckstien, Steve Brown, Jon Green, Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore, Mark Winterbottom, Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn Paul, Don Acenbrach Dec., Jackie Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard, Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

~\*~\*\_~\*~

Jordan Williams, Publisher. Jim Peterson, Editor E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com



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

Sunday, June 16th, 2013, 12:30 PM at the UU Clearwater facility at 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater.



For this month only, we will join our UU-Humanist friends to hear the new executive director of the Humanists of Florida Association, Teresa MacBain.





All are welcome. See the **front page**, and **page** 7 for details

In July, we will resume our usual format at the Jimmie Keele Library in Tampa. Watch this newsletter for further details.



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

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

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

## A Humanist Helping Hand

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

- Terri Eckstien (813) 891-9399
- Jerry Moore (727) 455-4973
- Nan Owens (727) 424-2558
- Patricia Walters (813) 988-5977



# ~ Time to 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** 

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

| Name:            |  |
|------------------|--|
| Address –if new: |  |
| City, State, Zip |  |
| Phone:           |  |
| E-mail:          |  |

(Privacy respected)

Send to:

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

## Humanist Quotes

""It makes no more sense to postulate a special brain-soul in order to account for the activities of the brain than to postulate a special stomach-soul in order to explain digestion, or a special lung-soul to explain breathing"

> Corliss Lamont, 1902-1995, philosopher



# Atheists of Florida



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 by writing to: Athaifle@aol.com.

JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our website and on our Facebook page.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 9th 1:30 PM at 5103 S Westshore Blvd. Tampa. Chapter director, Judy Adkins will lead a discussion on the Atheist contribution to the benefit of our community, and what strategies we might devise to more effectively promote an appreciation of what we do for our neighbors.

Our first meeting of every quarter (July is next) is now going to be a potluck, the address information is available only to members of our **Meetup** since it is a private home.

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.

We may have only one issue, but it is undoubtedly the most important one for the full emergence of the individual person.

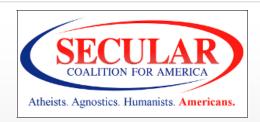
As an institution committed to bring the enormously prolific benefits of the atheist proposition to ever larger numbers of our citizens, we desire to enable an enlightened majority of truly free people to turn their intelligence toward the real problems we all must face.

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

# 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 unbrainwash. The cost of most PDF instant downloads is \$.01 per page. (\$1.00 per hundred page book.) Set up your account here:

http://bankofwisdom.com



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

http://secular.org/



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

## Clearwater UU Humanists

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

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

Programs have been well received with attendance between 50 and 75. To learn more, please contact: co-facilitators: Bill Norswrthy bnorsworthy@verizon.net Mark Brandt mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu Web site: www.uuclearwater.org UUHumanists will have their monthly meeting on Sunday, June 16th at 12:30 in the Octagon at Unitarian-Universalists of Clearwater campus at 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater. The speaker will be Teresa MacBain, a former Methodist Minister. All are welcome.



Clearwater, Florida

**Teresa MacBain** became a non-believer after more than twenty years of ministry throughout the Deep South. Her ministry experience began early in life, serving along side her father who was a Baptist minister. She taught 4th grade for several years but left the classroom for the pulpit as a Methodist pastor.

Teresa holds the distinction of being the first female graduate of **The Clergy Project**, a private, invitation-only "safe house" community of current and former ministers who no longer hold the supernatural beliefs of their religious traditions. Teresa has been featured on CNN, NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Talk of the Nation", USA Today, The O'Reilly Factor, the Huffington Post, and many other TV and print outlets. She was recently awarded the "Atheist of the Year Award" at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary American Atheists Convention for her work within the freethought community and the Clergy Project.

As a former minister, Teresa brings a broad understanding of the religious lifestyle and its effects on personal wellbeing to the non-theist movement. She's a dynamic and entertaining public speaker with a heartfelt compassion for those struggling to completely free themselves from their religion.

She is currently the Executive Director for the Humanists of Florida Association.

**Life Ring Secular Recovery** 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.

## FLORIDA REPORT

for more than a month.

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State

Maria came to the United States several years ago, probably like your parents or grandparents – seeking a better life. In Maria's case, she was fleeing physical abuse by her father in Honduras. While attempting to cross into Canada, she was stopped at gunpoint and beaten by border patrol agents who placed her in a civil immigration detention center

In the detention facility, Maria was placed in solitary confinement for two days. She never received a bond hearing to determine whether detention was even necessary. Maria is now several months pregnant and is facing deportation in June, despite memos from John T. Morton, National Director of U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE), that make it clear that officials have the discretion not to deport pregnant women.

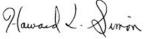
Unfortunately, Maria's story occurs all too often. It is a symptom of our broken, inflexible immigration system and it only serves to limit the civil liberties of aspiring citizens. **Tell Senator Rubio to support a process that respects human rights and civil liberties.** 

Stand with your fellow civil libertarians across Florida as we call on Senator Rubio to support the following proposals to the so-called "Gang of Eight Immigration Reform Bill":

- Create a welcoming roadmap to citizenship for 11 million aspiring Americans. People should not be excluded for past misdemeanors.
- Provide immigration judges with the authority to consider the circumstances of individual cases. Individuals denied legalization should be able to go before a judge to appeal their cases. Otherwise, errors in an unforgiving system could result in long-term and permanent separation of families and further complications.

Do not create a national ID system or include measures that harm fundamental privacy rights. Error-prone identification systems endanger the rights and livelihoods of all Americans (immigrants and non-immigrants) in the workplace and in civic life.





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.

# 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** 

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 Edwords. 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.

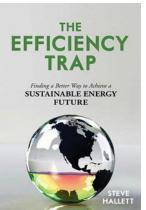
As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments. JP Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net



TBPCC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

### **Exciting new Books from Prometheus Press**

Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more. 06/13



Energy efficient refrigerators, biofuels, and hybrid carson the surface, we agree that they save energy. But is this actually a trap?

Botanist **Steve Hallett** points out how greater efficiency actually leads to more consumption and greater harm to the environment. While we are "saving" electricity, our overall consumption still increases!

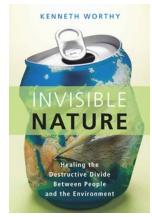
The Efficiency Trap

"successfully shifts the conversation away

from efficiency as an end-all-be-all to advocate for... sustainability on all fronts," says *E Magazine*, and proposes ways we can resolve this contradiction. *The Futurist* says this "frank, thought-provoking [book] deserves a hearing . . ." --and it will forever change the way you think about economic growth, peak oil, and climate change.

While polls show that we care about environmental quality, our actions often do not. Kenneth Worthy argues that this contradiction stems from the fact that our modern lifestyle is disconnected from nature in almost every way.

Invisible Nature: Healing the Destructive Divide Between People and the Environment, coming August 13th, traces broken pathways between our lives as consumers and the destruction that results in places such as contaminated rural Asian villages where our electronics are recycled.



It discusses how we can reconfigure modern life to become more in touch with how we affect the environment and create greater contact with the nature that sustains us.

**David Evan Harris**, founder of the Global Lives Project, says *Invisible Nature* gives "hope that in its decoding of our precarious predicament, we will find a way to weave back together all the right pieces." Carolyn Merchant, author of *The Death of Nature*, calls it "a striking account of the deep divide between humans and the natural world . . . Required reading for all who want a path to a new future." 6-13

#### The Humanist Press



DAMNED
GOOD COMPANY
LUIS GRANADOS

Y REBELS WHO BUCKED THE GOD EXPERTS

# **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.

#### The Philosophy of Humanism - 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. \$16.95



Pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

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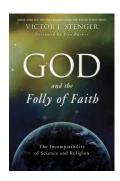
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The story of the fight against superstition has been told before, but never like this.

Victor Stenger confronts the battle between religious superstition and science with the eye of a trained physicist and the practicality of a superb teacher.

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**Read Humanist Periodicals:** The world's leading minds can be read at: <u>The Humanist, Free Inquiry</u>, Free Mind, <u>Humanist Perspectives</u>, <u>Skeptical Inquirer</u>, <u>Secular Humanist Bulletin</u>, The Florida Humanist Journal, <u>Skeptic</u>, Essays in Humanism, and many others. Look 'em up!

#### Joe Beck-Humanists of the Treasure Coast

"Cathy Katrovitz sent this piece by Joe Beck to me; I loved it and am sharing it with you."... Rick O'Keefe

(A message every adult should read because children are watching you and doing as you do, not as you say.)

## When you thought I wasn't looking

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say, "Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."

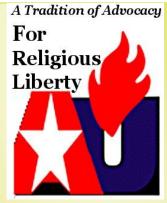




#### <u>Freethought Film Festival</u>

Promoting Reason through Film

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



**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, or check the web at <a href="http://">http://</a> www.au.org/ Let us know if help needed.



#### The Military Association of **Atheists and Freethinkers**



Nontheistic service members serve honorably throughout the worldalways 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/

Today's topic is:

# **Overcoming Fear**



This month - the topic is fear. Specifically the fear of other people. One of the benefits of Humanism is that it reminds us that other people are human and that they are worthy of our respect and compassion. This is especially important when we deal with difficult or mean people. I know when I encounter someone who is mean, my first instinct is to feel hurt. However, once I remind myself to think of them compassionately, my fear and hurt go away and I am left contemplating another human being, who is just as frail and flawed as I am. I don't need to be afraid of them, I simply need to protect myself from them. And usually I don't even need to do that because they have moved on to be mean to someone else.

As you know I've been doing a lot of work on how to stop bullying. I've realized that when I teach people how to stop a bully I am also teaching them Humanism. This is because the approach I teach is both philosophy, ethical, compassionate and scientific. We don't have to be afraid of the bullies in our life. They are just another human. This mindset allows people to overcome their fears and so that they can do what they need to do to get the bullying to stop. Calmly, compassionate, ethically and effectively, using the best knowledge we have from the fields of psychology and behavioral management. What could be more Humanistic than that.

Here is my column in last week's paper discussing this very topic. http://www.bradenton.com/2013/05/18/4530669/we-dont-need-to-be-afraidofother.html

Jennifer Hancock 6-13

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

# Rational Living

By **Dr. Vincent Parr.** 

If someone asked you today what you wanted more than anything else in life, what would you say to them?

In this section ISHV will not only explore the good life, but more importantly how to obtain and maintain it. Throughout history there have been all sorts of notions as to how we can achieve the two prime goals in human existence (and the answer most often given to the question above): Happiness and Inner Peace.

Can we find this inner Shangri-La through Jesus, Allah, Yahweh, Scientology, Hedonism, Asceticism, Atheism, No-ism? What are the basic structures of joy? Which path shall we take? How can we guide our children? These we believe are the most important questions human kind can attempt to answer. Equally important is how we can become a better role model and teacher for our children in their quest for a better life.

Two major areas will be the foundation for this section: One cerebral and one experiential. The cerebral area will largely come from the rational and scientific base of the Cognitive Behavioral approaches to mental health and well-being. The grandfather of these approaches was Dr. Albert Ellis, a pioneer who broke from the shackles of psychoanalysis and Freud to create the third major movement in Psychology. He called his reason/scientific-based approach Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (or Theory). The experiential area will largely come from studies on mindfulness and from Zen. In a brief but very incomplete sense, Zen is a finger pointing at the human mind and reality. It is the reality of every moment "as it is" -- from the micro to the macro. From the tiniest subatomic particle to Galaxies circulating the Universe. This helps us put our problems and plights in proper perspective. It also humbles us and helps us to see that the only authority that anyone or anything has (including Religion and Science) is ultimately because of the power we give them.

Through combining these two wisdom-based approaches to epistemology comes a sense of Freedom -- a freedom that allows us to pause and choose our actions. When the actions that we take come from a center of good will, empathy, and compassion toward others, we create a morality that can be taught from generation to generation.

When we "react" to others from a set of fixed beliefs, we lose our freedom to choose and we become mired in a world of delusion and illusion becoming like automatons. As a result, our actions often come from ill will, greed, anger, hostility and intolerance. Others who don't hold our views or beliefs become our enemy and immoral behavior based in anger often follows.

Our overall goal is Freedom. Freeing the mind of the habits that create suffering and disturbance. We welcome your interest and involvement at the ISHV. If you would like to make a comment, complaint, or suggestion, or if you would like to present an article for possible consideration to Rational Living please contact Vincent E. Parr, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, at 5201 W. Kennedy Blvd. Suite # 708, Tampa, Florida 33609; on the web at:

# A H Appignani Humanist L C Legal Center

### AHLC News

#### Humanists Demand an End to Teacher-Led Prayer Sessions at Missouri High School

May 16, 2013 – The American Humanist Association's legal center sent a letter to school officials in Fayette, Missouri, demanding they take steps to end weekly morning prayer sessions held by a teacher at Fayette High School

#### **AHA Sues Carroll County Commissioners over Prayers**

May 1, 2013 – Today, the American Humanist Association sued the Board of Commissioners in Carroll County, Maryland for opening its meetings with Commissioner-delivered sectarian prayers.

#### **Christian Assemblies at Rankin County Schools**

April 25, 2013 – The legal center has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Rankin County, Mississippi school district to challenge its recent mandatory student assemblies that presented a Christian message as a violation of the separation of church and state.

#### Legal Center Files Brief with Supreme Court Supporting Marriage Equality

Feb. 27, 2013 – The American Humanist Association has submitted amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court asking it to uphold lower court decisions ruling that laws that deny legal recognition to the marriages of gays and lesbians are unconstitutionally discriminatory.







#### CFI & Community Outreach By Rick O'Keefe



Join CFI's Humanist book club, a monthly discussion. Contact **David Vangsness** for details.

CLICK here for **National Events**To become part of our important work; to make a difference, become a **Member.** 

## **Humanists seeking Answers through Inquiry**

Our group, Center for Inquiry, is an educational foundation, a "think tank," providing a meaningful variation on an old theme: "Think locally, act globally." At CFI, members probe, question, criticize and study significant problems facing our society today. Moreover, we are formulating ways of approaching those problems by taking action.

Membership is composed of a broad spectrum of people intent on making a positive difference in society. Members include educators, scientists and other eminent persons, musicians, poets, laborers, mechanics, house-wives and house-fathers ... not only in the United States but also in other countries.

Nonpolitical and non-religious, CFI defends science and freedom of inquiry. CFI takes a strong stand in supporting the Constitutional and traditional American value of separation of church and state. CFI welcomes all who have inquiring minds and who enjoy the company of others in *working* at improving society.

Our family of Florida branches (Tallahassee, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Daytona Beach,) is particularly fortunate in having an extraordinary number of talented, energized and committed citizens. Those who have already joined us as Friends (members) here in CFI include people notable in the spheres of education, business, government and the professions. Others have distinguished themselves in the arts and sciences. Still others are deeply involved in their businesses, while some of our most vital members are retired or semi-retired from long and noteworthy careers in various fields. Our next generation of leaders and on-campus students provide vigor and enthusiasm. We are pleased that like-minded people come from all areas of society.

Every one of us is linked by possessing a deep concern for the improvement of our society. We agree about approaching those problems by using science, critical thinking, and the *application* of reason. CFI gives us the opportunity of expressing our views among like-minded people who cherish our right to speak about our concerns without fear of offending and with the knowledge that all desire the same outcome: a better America.

Our double goal at CFI is self-empowerment and joint empowerment. Together, we expect to find ways to make a positive impact on society, thus giving us personal satisfaction as well. All too often, concern about problems fails to translate into *action*. We at CFI are committed to being vehicles for change that will create the new directions that all of us feel are so urgently needed. We want to play an *active* role leading to the betterment of our society.

As humanists, we are inspired by the Statement of Principles written by Dr. Kurtz, who says that CFI is "committed to the application of reason and science, the understanding of the universe, and to the solving of human problems."

"We believe," says the statement, "in an open and pluralistic society, and that democracy is the best guarantee of protecting human rights from authoritarian elites and repressive majorities. Further, we attempt to transcend divisive parochial loyalties based on race, religion, political affiliation, nationality, gender, creed, class, age, sexual orientation or ethnicity, and we strive to work together for the common good of humanity.

We are skeptical of untested claims to knowledge, and we are open to novel ideas and seek new departures in our thinking."

Bernard L. Turner Ph.D.



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

Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: http://tampa-bay.org/map.html Doc (Dave Dockery) President,

Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org

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.

We encourage those who wish to help further the cause of skepticism to join TBS! Annual membership includes four issues of *Tampa Bay Skeptics Report*, each snail mailed to you in advance of our quarterly meetings (last Saturday of every March, June, September, and December). Members also receive a 30% discount on any **Prometheus Books** purchased through TBS. Make your \$15 check payable to "Tampa Bay Skeptics" and mail to:

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



#### Coming to Orlando in September...

## Neil deGrasse Tyson

Discoveries in the Universe

• September 12, 2013 7:30PM **Warden Arena, Alfond Sports Center** Rollins College in Winter Park, FL



Neil deGrasse Tyson was born and raised in New York City where he was educated in the public schools clear through his graduation from the Bronx High School of Science. Tyson went on to earn his BA in Physics from Harvard and his PhD in Astrophysics from Columbia.

Tyson's professional research interests include star formation, exploding stars, dwarf galaxies, and the structure of our Milky Way.

In 2001, Tyson was appointed by President Bush to serve on a 12-member commission that studied the Future of the US Aerospace Industry. The final report was published in 2002 and contained recommendations (for Congress and for the major agencies of the government) that would promote a thriving future of transportation, space exploration, and national security.

In 2004, Tyson was once again appointed by President Bush to serve on a 9-member commission on the Implementation of the United States Space Exploration Policy, dubbed the Moon, Mars, and Beyond commission. This group navigated a path by which the new space vision can become a successful part of the American agenda. And in 2006, the head of NASA appointed Tyson to serve on its prestigious Advisory Council, which will help guide NASA through its perennial need to fit its ambitious vision into its restricted budget.

In addition to dozens of professional publications, Dr. Tyson has written, and continues to write for the public. From 1995 to 2005, Tyson was a monthly essayist for *Natural History* magazine under the title Universe. He has also written for many Humanist Publications, and been named AHA's Asimov Science award recipient in 2009. And among Tyson's ten books is his memoir *The Sky is Not the Limit: Adventures of an Urban Astrophysicist*; and *Origins: Fourteen Billion Years of Cosmic Evolution*, co-written with Donald Goldsmith. *Origins* is the companion book to the PBS-NOVA 4-part mini-series Origins, in which Tyson served as on-camera host. The program premiered on September 28 and 29, 2004.

Two of Tyson's recent books are the playful and informative *Death By Black Hole and Other Cosmic Quandaries*, which was a New York Times bestseller, and *The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America's Favorite Planet*, chronicling his experience at the center of the controversy over Pluto's planetary status. The PBS/NOVA documentary "The Pluto Files", based on the book, premiered in March 2010.

For five seasons, beginning in the fall of 2006, Tyson appeared as the on-camera host of PBS-NOVA's spinoff program *NOVA ScienceNOW*, which is an accessible look at the frontier of all the science that shapes the understanding of our place in the universe.

During the summer of 2009 Tyson identified a stable of professional standup comedians to assist his effort in bringing science to commercial radio with the NSF-funded pilot program *StarTalk*. Now also a podcast, StarTalk Radio combines celebrity guests with informative yet playful banter. The target audience is all those people who never thought they would, or could, like science.

Tyson is the recipient of eighteen honorary doctorates and the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest award given by NASA to a non-government citizen. His contributions to the public appreciation of the cosmos have been recognized by the International Astronomical Union in their official naming of asteroid 13123 Tyson. On the lighter side, Tyson was voted Sexiest Astrophysicist Alive by People Magazine in 2000.

In February 2012, Tyson released his tenth book, containing every thought he has ever had on the past, present, and future of space exploration: *Space Chronicles: Facing the Ultimate Frontier*. Currently, Tyson is working on a 21st century reboot of Carl Sagan's landmark television series COSMOS, to air in 13 episodes on the FOX network in the spring of 2014.

Tyson is the first occupant of the Frederick P. Rose Directorship of the Hayden Planetarium. Tyson lives in New York City with his wife and two children.



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.

<u>TampaBayCoR.org</u> 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 to Freethinkers

- 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation (UN)
- June is National Accordion Awareness Month
- 5th. World Environment Day
  - 6th Atheist Pride Day
  - 8th World Oceans Day
- 18th International Panic Day (Why wait?)
- 19th Juneteenth (Emancipation Proclamation 1863)
- 29th Gay Pride Parade St. Pete



TBCoR Leadership Team 2013
Mark Brandt, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

#### Be Included!

Group Leaders are invited to send items for this Newsletter.

Please send them to: <a href="mailto:tbcornews@metrodirect.net">tbcornews@metrodirect.net</a>

For calendar items, include as much info as possible.