



The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 3 March 2013 Jim Peterson, Editor

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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason is pleased to welcome the



As a constituent group member.

The Humanists of Sarasota Bay (HUSBAY) began organizing in 1999. The Council of Secular Humanism provided assistance with our startup. Six people showed up for the first organizational meeting, and we slowly built up to our present membership of more than 100.

During that first year we began a lecture series open to the public which continues to the present day. In that first year we also began Saturday morning breakfasts for informal discussions with about four to eight in attendance. In 2003 we switched to a weekly luncheon, which quickly became very popular and is continuing today. Attendance is between fifteen and thirty or more with the larger numbers during the winter season. This, like the breakfasts, has remained informal. It is open to anyone who might want to see what we are like, or who seeks the camaraderie of other humanists. We have an annual picnic in the spring, and have recently begun an annual Darwin Day celebration with a dinner and speaker. We have developed several special interest groups that meet monthly: a philosophical group, a writer's group, a current events group, a film group, a religion and society group, and a nonfiction book review group. Others have come and gone, such as wine tasting, an investment group, and a book club, but could be revived whenever someone volunteers as a facilitator as has happened with the philosophical group. We sponsor a city park by doing a cleanup of the park three times a year. We have a Caring Committee to offer comfort to our members who have become ill or injured. Our internet newsletter goes out monthly to anyone who wishes to receive it, and we maintain a website that shows our activities and schedules.

In 2011 we became incorporated. This provides the Board members with some legal protection and makes us a tax exempt organization. HUSBAY serves mostly social and intellectual interests. The lectures have stimulated and enlightened us while the lunches have provided discussion and fellowship. The organization offers a haven for those who seek to find others they can share their secular orientation with and with whom they can feel a camaraderie and a relief from the sectarian world. The members have been reluctant to engage in any prominent social action but many individual members support groups that are active in social action and social justice. In addition, the organization has affiliated with, or provided donations to several secular organizations which support social action.

We expect to continue to provide a port in the storm for anyone who shares our values, and we hope to contribute to a more rational and just world. <http://sarasota.humanists.net/>

Darwin's Gift

Proved to be a great success for the Coalition. Some 125 attendees took the opportunity to learn more about the scientific enterprise and renewed their interest in ensuring its integrity.

Sean Faircloth, Ryan Cagun, and Jim Strayer were great and informative speakers. We thank them! More later...



A Great turnout on February 9th.



Click to connect!

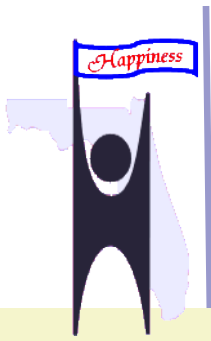
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON – FEBRUARY, 2013 CALENDAR

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/>

03-04 Monday, 6:30 PM		Humanists of Sarasota Bay http://sarasota.humanists.net/	See our website for more information on the many activities scheduled throughout the month.	“The Seedbed of Humanism” w/ Charles Spindel at the Roskamp Center 1226 N. Tmiami Trail Sarasota. Lecture series.
03-02, Saturday, 2 PM		CLEARWATER– The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Countryside Library 2741 S.R 580 Clearwater, FL MAP	Program: Liberal Vs. Conservative with Matt Cooper. See page 3 for details
03-03 Sunday, 11:00 AM		Orlando field trip — Humanist Families of Tampa	Orlando	Orlando Science Ctr. Family outings and other activities are ongoing. For more information, see our Facebook page
03-07, Thursday, 7 PM		S. PINELLAS– Pinellas County Skeptics	To be determined. See the website .	Monthly skeptical dinner
03-10, Sunday, 7 PM		BRANDON– Joint CFI & Brandon Atheists	See Meetup for the venue.	RSVP to Kathryn before noon of the Friday, preceding the social. http://www.meetup.com/cfi-tampa-bay
03-10, Sunday, 1:00 PM		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-Tampabay/ Blog: http://aofla.wordpress.com
03-16 , Saturday, 11:00 AM		TAMPA– Tampa Humanist Association	Jimmie B. Keele Library 2902 W. Bearss Ave Tampa, FL MAP	Program: Meet Luis Granados . See page 7 . http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
03-10 Saturday, 1:00 PM		New Tampa Film Event Tampa Bay Humanist Film freaks	Jimmie B. Keele Library 2902 W. Bearss Ave Tampa, FL MAP	See for details: “Las Malas Intenciones” <i>Cancelled for now. Sorry!</i>
03-28, Monday, 6:30 PM		CARROLLWOOD– Tampa Bay Thinkers Discussion Group	Carrollwood Cultural Center 4537 Lowell Rd, Carrollwood, FL 33618 MAP	“Is there a way to avoid Violence?” RSVP at Web site .
03-21, Thursday, 7 PM		N. PINELLAS– Pinellas County Skeptics	For details & to RSVP, see the website .	Monthly skeptical dinner
Every 2 weeks in North Tampa		Café Philo	Check website for current times & locations	Philosophical discussion group in Tampa
03-17 3 PM		BRANDON– CFI Skeptic/Humanist Mixer	See the Meetup for details & the RSVP (required).	Click to RSVP
03-24 Sunday, 12:30 PM		CLEARWATER– UU Humanists	Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Clearwater 2470 Nursery Road Clearwater, FL 33764 MAP	Your RSVP is needed ASAP. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
03-21, Thursday, 7:00 PM,		North Pinellas CFI Skeptics/ Humanists Social	See the Meetup for details & the RSVP (required) before noon of the Sunday preceding the social..	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 12!</i> Click here before noon, xxx (Sunday). Click HERE .
03 -23 Saturday 11AM		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-bay/events/101158812
03-30 Saturday 11 AM		Tampa Bay Skeptics Quarterly meeting	Jan Platt Regional Library on 3910 South Manhattan Ave, Tampa FL	Details: See page 13!



The Humanist Society³ of the Suncoast News

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

Volume 21 No. 3 March, 2013

Join Us !

Matt Cooper returns:



Why Conservatives and Liberals Think **D**_I**f**^f**e**_r**e**ⁿ**t****i****y**

Former political consultant and full time Humanist, Matt Cooper draws from the current work of neuroscientists, psychologists, linguists, sociologists and political scientists to explain how progressives and conservatives are really “different in the head” both biologically and morally. An understanding of these underlying differences might very well allow Americans to become less polarized, while giving elected officials tools to provide better government. Matt presents dozens of proposals that might slowly bridge the moral rift, and invites the audience to weigh in on each.



Food: the first kindness. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. There is increasing hunger here in our community. Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food or checks for:

Tampa Bay Harvest

Please join us for
this free and open
discussion.

On **Saturday**,
March
2nd.

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,

Great Reading 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

AUTHOR

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



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

Our monthly social dinner,

Our March social dinner will take place at:

Country Harvest Restaurant

at 5:00 PM on Sunday March 17th. **Country Harvest restaurant** is located at 1285 South Missouri Avenue in Clearwater about a mile plus south of Gulf to Bay Blvd. on the east side of Missouri. They have a wide variety of offerings in the \$7-12 range, with a full alcohol bar.

Please make your reservations with Glenn Paul at (727) 595-3347 or reply by email to: kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com by Saturday, March 16th.

Laugh Lines

GROANERS

How does Moses make his tea?
Hebrews it.

Venison for dinner again?
Oh deer!

A cartoonist was found dead in his home.
Details are sketchy.

I used to be a banker,
but then I lost interest.

England has no kidney bank,
but it does have a Liverpool.

I tried to catch some fog,
but I mist.

They wrote that I had type-A blood,
but it was a Type-O.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic.
It's syncing now.

Jokes about German sausages
are the wurst.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went,
and then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club,
but I'd never met herbivore.

When chemists die,
they barium.

I did a theatrical performance about puns.

It was a play on words.

Thanks to *Patricia Walters*

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

Steve Brown, VP

Terry Eckstien

Lois Fries, Secretary

Jon Green

Jim Peterson, President

Frank Prah

Marios Psomas, treasurer

Emeritus members: Anita Garcia,

Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore, Mark

Winterbottom, 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

Don't forget!

This is dues renewal season. See page 5 for the form. Note that by contributing at the \$35-40 level you are eligible to receive a handsome "Happy Humanist" Lapel pin. Wear it with pride, as it identifies you as a proud member of an organized movement of people who think for themselves.

Your contributions will allow us to open opportunities for others to discover the difference organized humanism makes in the tenor and quality of life. For those who think it important to help Humanism become the living philosophy of the majority, here is an opportunity to join with us and build a foundation for a new way of being human.

And 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

Tampa Humanist Association

Saturday, **March 16th**, 2013 at
11.00 am Jimmie B. Keele Library,
2902 W. Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL.
Look for the Tampa Humanist Assoc. sign.

[MAP](#)



Talk with Author,
Luis Granados

Damned Good Company is a book about people, not about God. People who have preached about God, taken money for sharing what they say they know about God, and ordered others about to enforce what they claim to be God's will—and a small band of heroes who stood up to them.

In short, *Damned Good Company* is a *Profiles in Courage* for humanists.

Some of the twenty heroes of *Damned Good Company* are well-known: Erasmus, Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Clarence Darrow, Atatürk, Nehru, Steve Biko. Others are not: people like Han Yü, banished from the 9th century Chinese court for questioning the worship of the Buddha's finger, and Lucy Harris, who came within an inch of deflating Mormonism before it got off the ground.

Each hero is contrasted with a villain of his or her time and place: either a God expert like Martin Luther or Joseph Smith, or a cynical politician like Mussolini, who never believed in God, but exploited religion shamelessly to advance his political ambition.

The stories in *Damned Good Company* will inspire those today who want to stand up to the Christian Right, the Muslim fanatics, the oppressiveness of Catholic and Jewish orthodoxy, the rising Hindu Taliban, and everyone else who claims a God-given right to tell the rest of us what to do.

Damned Good Company is available from HumanistPress.com and all major online ebook retailers.
---AHA



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 ~ ⁵

The Humanist Society
of the Suncoast.

Annual Dues

_ Trial -3 month- free news

_ Regular -**\$25.**

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

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

_ Life -**\$200.**

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

_ Associate -**\$10.**

_ **Contribution for growth**

New!



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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send to:

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

Humanist Quotes

“True freedom is the capacity for acting according to one's true character, to be altogether one's self, to be self-determined and not subject to outside coercion.”

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 March 10th 5103 S Westshore Blvd. Tampa, and we will be doing our first webcast (you can be a participant or cheer people on from the sidelines. Care will be taken to make sure those that don't want to appear on screen are not seen.)

Our first meeting of every quarter 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.

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>



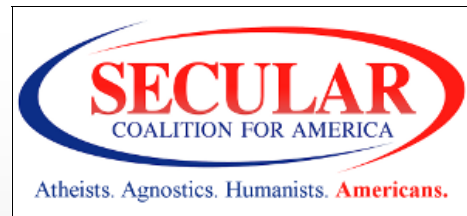
Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better

6

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



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

<http://secular.org/>



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

Clearwater UU Humanists

We are a group of Unitarian Universalists committed to a humanistic and non-theistic worldview. Currently, meetings are scheduled once a month and are usually held on the third Sunday of most months from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services.

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

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



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will have their next meeting on March 24th at 12:30 pm in the Unitarian-Universalists patio room, 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater. Our speaker will be **Ron Barnett**, who is presently City Commissioner and Vice Mayor of Dunedin and formerly a professor of Philosophy at Valdosta State University. He will present a talk on "Free Will vs. Determinism". All are welcome to what promises to be, an interesting and thought-provoking talk.



**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."

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU supporter,

Claudia Vallejo's parents wanted to give her the best start in life — when she was just fourteen, they moved her from Mexico to the U.S. Claudia attended an American high school, has American children, and is proud to call North Carolina home.

But now, eleven years later, North Carolina is considering not letting her drive because of where she was born.

For Claudia, a driver's license is more than a piece of paper. Not being able to drive legally means not being able to take her kids to school, go grocery shopping, or even see a doctor. It means having to take her five year old out of ballet lessons because she is too ashamed to keep asking for rides. It means missing soccer games with friends. Without a driver's license, everyday life is an everyday struggle.

Ask the Governor to allow Claudia to drive her kids to school.

Claudia is one of 1.4 million people brought to the U.S. as undocumented children who now hope to be on a path to citizenship (a group named DREAMers after a piece of legislation). While the specifics of this process are being debated in the Senate, the federal government has ruled Claudia and others like her are here lawfully.

In almost any other state Claudia could drive. The government has said DREAMers are in the U.S. legally, the State Attorney General agrees, but North Carolina's Department of Motor Vehicles is undecided. We need the Governor to step in and show leadership to fix this. A late surge of signatures and a national spotlight could be just what is needed to make sure the Governor makes the right choice.

Add your name to the petition being delivered to the Governor's office next week.

We CAN win this — last week, Michigan, one of the first states to deny DREAMers the right to drive, reversed their decision as a result of public pressure and legal challenges. They joined the vast majority of states that have granted DREAMers driver's licenses. Let's make North Carolina next.

Anthony D. Romero

ACLU of Florida
www.aclufl.org



3-13

Life Ring Secular Recovery group meets every Monday evening at 8-p.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.

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future



Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area:

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

(*= not currently members of the Coalition)

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

Calendar:
Rick O'Keefe

Newsletter:
Jim Peterson

Web site:
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

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

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

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

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

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

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

TBPC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

Every four years, the U.S. Global Change Research Program assembles the latest science on global warming and submits a report to the president and Congress. The 2013 draft report has been made [available here](#) for review and commenting until April 12.



The science is sobering. The report states that The United States average temperature has increased 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit since 1895, 80% of which has been since 1980. We can expect an additional 3 - 10 degrees of warming depending on how dramatically we curb our greenhouse gas emissions. The impacts of global warming are already showing up--extreme weather, sea level rise, ocean acidification--and we still potentially have a lot of warming to go.

If this information inspires you to DO SOMETHING, you can:

Become informed. [Read about the assessment here.](#) [Read about global warming here.](#) [Write a letter to the editor](#) of your favorite local news publication.

[Contact your public officials.](#) Tell them about the report and its implications and urge them to take action on climate change. Tell a friend. Get the word out on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Join the [Southeast Coastal Climate Network](#) and the [Florida Climate Alliance](#) for updates on this report and other climate-focused events, actions and events.

Attend the National Climate Assessment [Southeast regional town hall](#) in Tampa, FL on February 19. [Submit comments](#) on the content of the report. Comments due April 12.

About the National Climate Assessment:

This latest report draws from many researchers in a wide range of scientific fields to yield the best available data on climate change and its effects on humanity. The team that assembles the report, the NCA and [Development Advisory Committee](#), is made up of representatives from leading scientific universities, influential businesses, and various federal government agencies. In putting together the current version of the report, they engaged more than 240 authors, representing a wide sampling of the scientific community. The first two reports were completed in [2000](#) and [2009](#).

Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more.

Humanist Books

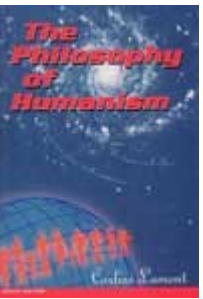


[One Planet One People by Carl Coon](#) \$22.



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

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



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

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

from:

Evolve Fish

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

Read Humanist Periodicals: The world's leading minds can be read at: [The Humanist](#), [Free Inquiry](#), [Free Mind](#), [Humanist Perspectives](#), [Skeptical Inquirer](#), [Secular Humanist Bulletin](#), [The Florida Humanist Journal](#), [Skeptic](#), [Essays in Humanism](#), and many others. Look 'em up!

The Freedom from Religion Foundation



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

I am happy to announce the third season of the International Freethought Film Festival, and excited that I will be able to work face to face with individuals in the Orlando area to make it a success. This year we have added a screenwriting category, and the winning short script will be developed as our very first project to launch our production branch.

**Freethought
Film
Festival
Foundation**



Promoting Reason Through Film

As thrilled as I am to be once again immersed in the planning of the fest, acquiring the motivation to actively move forward on the planning for season three of IFFF took me months of painful reflection on last years event. I wasn't certain that I could break through the paralysis brought on by the disappointment of the poor turnout back in August. All of my efforts are voluntary, and it was truly disheartening for me that so few seemed to care about our mission of promoting reason through film.

The combination of the tragic movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado that occurred just eight miles from the film fest venues a week prior to our kickoff; and what I felt was a let down by the secular movement in promoting IFFF 2012; were the primary reasons behind the low attendance. Each event and screening was executed as planned; and those who did attend had a great time and enjoyed the program of films and camaraderie. Freethought got some great press out of it as well! (Check out the links to the right.)

Unfortunately, ticket sales did not cover all of the venue costs, and we are still in arrears from last season. As disconcerting as this is for me, my efforts go on. I know that the International Freethought Film Festival is worthy of support; and I know that there are freethinkers who care. I am passionate about our mission of promoting reason through film, and feel strongly that it contributes to the necessary dialogue that counters irrational thought and superstitious beliefs, and the evils that can result from them.

I am still alive and kicking, but I can't do this alone. FFFF needs help from individuals who want to ensure that the International Freethought Festival grows. We are a nonprofit that is 100% independent--which means we receive zero funding from other organizations. As such, our programming is not subject to the influence thereof.

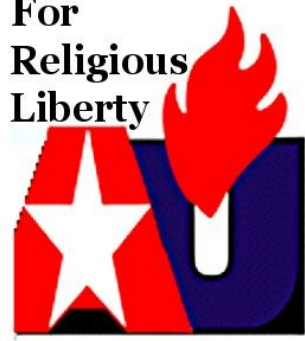
If you can afford to make a even the smallest donation to FFFF, please show your support by stopping by www.freethoughtfilmfest.org and contributing.

Best in Reason...*Andrea Steele*



A Tradition of Advocacy

**For
Religious
Liberty**



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

We regret to note that the chapter has now closed. But there is still a need for an active chapter of this outstanding organization in the Tampa Bay area. If you want to help build one, contact; Email [AU national](mailto:AU.national), or check the web at <http://www.au.org/> Let us know if help needed.



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

**The Military Association of
Atheists and Freethinkers**



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

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

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris

(christbrown@yahoo.com)

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

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

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

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

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

Today's topic is:

What does it mean to be a Humanist?

For me, being a Humanist means that I made a commitment to myself to be a considerate, ethical, compassionate, responsible person. This is something I do for me. I self label as a Humanist because it helps me to remind myself that this is the sort of person I want to be.

These are my ideals. I need to make a good faith effort to actually live by my values.

I had a conversation with a friend a couple of weeks ago and we were discussing the difference between ethics and morality. For the most part, this is a distinction without a difference. But ... the difference does matter.

Ethics is a system of values. What you value. Morality is how well you live life by your ethics. Morality is a judgment about whether a) your ethical values are good and helpful to others and b) whether your actions are in accordance with your stated values.

It isn't enough to profess to a good set of ethics. You have to actually be moral to be a good person. to me, this is what it is to be a Humanist. It is a commitment to be moral.

What does being a Humanist mean to you? Why have you chosen to be a Humanist or to learn more about the philosophy?

Jennifer Hancock

HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE

The need is great. All it takes is about an hour out of a day and the commitment to show up once a week. The feeling of having helped is most gratifying. How can we as Humanists not act to impact a child in the inner city in a positive manner?

YOU can give a child a much-needed hour of personal attention that will encourage reading and just might help them to move forward while improving their self-esteem.

In two 1-hour sessions, I have encountered children, some of whom have already had to repeat kindergarten, that barely recognize or are able to say the alphabet or the sound of the letter. This is half way through the school year. In two 1-hour sessions, 3 third-grade girls are unable to break down or sound out a word. They cannot grasp the concept of context since they are still struggling with the words.

Teachers struggle with discipline issues and the pressure of preparing the children for FCAT testing. With patience and intensive learning, you can help these children grow into their potential.

In Hillsborough County, contact:

Debra L. Blossom
Program Manager

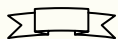
Training and Volunteer Management

debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us

813.872-5254

Gale Barron

gfbshb@aol.com



Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

Rick O'Keefe, CFI certified,

Virginia Kohl-Lieberman, AHA certified



Institute for Science and Human Values

Inspired by Empathy, Creativity and guided by Reason

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

Stand with the 72 U.S. Representatives Voting NO!

Dear Torchbearer of Liberty,

By a vote of 354-72 the House of Representatives passed a bill to use taxpayer's money to rebuild religious buildings. If you are like me you believe that since religious organizations enjoy a tax exemption, tax-payer money should not be used for their benefit.

The first amendment protects against government favoring religion over secular concerns. Government should remain neutral.

On February 13, the House of Representatives passed **HR 592**, a bill to allow taxpayer money to go towards the rebuilding of houses of worship by a vote of 354-72.

Here's the bill's language

Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2013 - Amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include community centers, including tax-exempt houses of worship, as "private nonprofit facilities" for purposes of disaster relief and emergency assistance eligibility under such Act. Makes a church, synagogue, mosque, temple, or other house of worship, and a private nonprofit facility operated by a religious organization, eligible for federal contributions for the repair, restoration, and replacement of facilities damaged or destroyed by a major disaster, without regard to the religious character of the facility or the primary religious use of the facility.

Makes this Act applicable to the provision of assistance in response to a major disaster or emergency declared on or after October 28, 2012.

Light the Way!

Find the phone number for your representative and call today.

If you are one of the lucky ones who is represented by one of the courageous 72, make a quick call, mention you are a constituent and thank them.

If you are represented by a member who favors religion, let them know in a polite way that they are elected to uphold the Constitution and represent us all. Inform them you're a constituent who is disappointed in their vote on **HR 592**. Ask them to vote for secular values the next time they have the opportunity.

3-13

Find out more about end of life issues. Everyone has to face this final question. But there are choices not provided by conventional institutions. Click for [info](#).



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



[Click to register](#) for next year

Ages 7-16, Holland, NY

CFI & Community Outreach

By Rick O'Keefe

CFI-Tampa Bay is pleased to be co-sponsoring March's Humanist Society of the Suncoast discussion on the divisions of liberal and conservative thinking, led by Matt Cooper. Because education is at the core of Humanism and Center for Inquiry, here is a synopsis of what CFI offers, from the basics up through an accredited Masters course, plus Summer Camp for the kids.

The educational programs of CFI are concentrated in the [CFI Institute](#), founded in 1987. The Institute is the oldest continuously operating academic program of its kind in North America, the only one supported by a research organization or "think tank," and the only program staffed with resident fellows (faculty) and a significant number of distinguished visiting fellows.

We offer study of humanist thought and practice, with special reference to secular humanism and models and methods of scientific inquiry. Students can interact with and learn from the leading lights in the field of humanism and secularism. See our [Institute Catalogue here](#).



Rick O'Keefe



CFI Institute Online

The Institute now offers adult/continuing education seminar courses online, featuring leading authors, professors, and public figures focusing on issues such as science, secularism, humanism, and skepticism. Visit the [CFI Institute Online](#) for more information.

Science and the Public Ed.M.

CFI partners with the Graduate School of Education of the University at Buffalo in offering the accredited Ed.M. program in [Science and the Public](#), available entirely online!

Camp Inquiry

CFI also operates [Camp Inquiry](#), a summer camp that helps youth confront the challenges of living a non-theistic/secular lifestyle in a world dominated by religious belief and pseudoscience.

In 2013, Camp Inquiry will be in session from August 4th through August 12th. Registration will open after the new year. For more information please visit [campinquiry.org](#)

If you are unable to attend Camp Inquiry, please check the schedule for [Camp Quest](#), which offers a well-regarded secular summer camp at various locations throughout the United States.

Research in CFI Publications

Please visit the [CFI Publications](#) page for more information.

Philo: A Journal of Philosophy is a peer-reviewed academic journal which publishes original, conceptually precise, and argumentatively rigorous articles in all fields of philosophy. Although not devoted to any specific branch of philosophy, Philo encourages the submission of work that examines philosophical issues from an explicitly naturalist perspective. It also welcomes work on the philosophical credentials of both naturalism and various supernaturalist alternatives to naturalism.

The Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice is the only peer-reviewed journal devoted exclusively to distinguishing scientifically-supported claims from scientifically-unsupported claims in clinical psychology, psychiatry, social work, and allied disciplines.

Join CFI's **Humanist book club**, a monthly discussion. Contact David Vangness for details: [CLICK here](#).

National Events: May 17-29, 2013--[Women in Secularism](#)

Some of our divisions:

• [African Americans for Humanism](#)

• [Tampa Bay Skeptics](#) -- Central Florida's famous Skeptics assoc. See page 14.

• [The Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](#) -- world-wide assoc. of Skeptics and scientific investigations.

• [Cognitive Neuro Sciences, Inc.](#) -- Science-of-the-brain secular humanist oriented counseling/therapy center. Ideal for those wanting to avoid religious-oriented groups like AA.

• [Council for Secular Humanism](#) -- world-wide assoc. of Secular Humanists

To become part of our important work, and to make a difference, become a [member](#):

http://www.centerforinquiry.net/support/donate_now/

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

Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater:

Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Doc (Dave Dockery) President, Tampa Bay Computer Society

www.tampa-bay.org "We repair our members' computers for free!"





What is **Tampa Bay Skeptics**?

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

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

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

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

**Attend the Tampa Bay Skeptics Quarterly Meeting Saturday, March 30, 2013, 11:00 AM
Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library on 3910 South Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611**

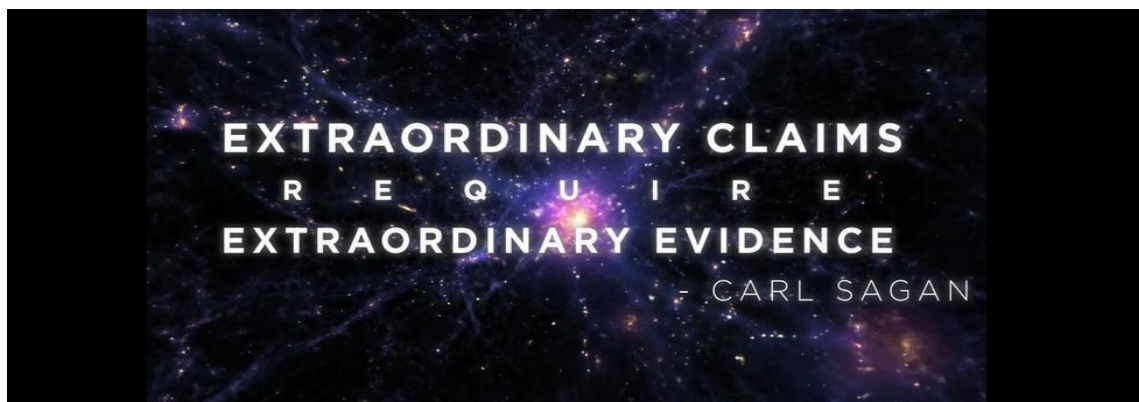
Membership in TBS

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

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

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

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





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

Practical Freethought

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R.O.

Holidays of Special Interest to Freethinkers

- **2013** International Year of [Water Cooperation](#) (UN)
- March 1-7 Universal [Human Beings Week](#)
- Women's History Month
- March 8 - [International Women's Day](#)
- March 2 - International Tongue Twister Day
- March 20 - [Atheist Pride Day](#)



TBCoR Leadership Team 2013

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

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net