

# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News

Vol. 3 No. 5 May 2014 Jim Peterson, Editor

## What's Inside?

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

\* Member organizations

## Directory

### Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

#### Calendar

Rick O'Keefe

#### Web site

Jim Peterson

#### Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

#### Special Projects

Mark Brandt



~ Dale Friedley ~

According to the April 6th Tampa Bay Times: **FRIEDLEY, Dale L. 63, of St. Petersburg, passed away Sunday, March 30, 2014. Survived by brothers, Darl and Dean; sister, D'Ann; and friends.**

Dale had in fact, a great many friends. He shared his many interests notably Film, philosophy, journalism, art, and the broad swath of knowledge represented by his interest in Humanism. Despite the near constant pain of his condition, he illuminated our world in ways we shall always remember.

“Coming from a radical atheist background and a love of philosophy, humanism may be the best great hope for a better world. My humanism comes theoretically from a Jeremy Bentham utilitarianism but I have honed in on empathy as another great hope.”

- Tampa Humanist Assoc. Meetup

• “I have figured some things out since joining/assisting this group and am still looking for bold and beautiful ideas. This group is talking philosophy the way I like it. I am glad with the help of other very smart people we are getting it together.” - Tampa Bay Thinkers group

• I am just joining this one to complete the cyclical quintet of atheist, philosopher, skeptic, humanist and inquiry groups. - CFI Tampa Bay

News of the death of our friend, Dale Friedley has set me to thinking about the matter of death itself. Most of the rational world knows that as individuals, we are a relatively short lived phenomenon. Yet within our lives, is a whole universe of understanding, interconnected, but leaving the ends of many threads still unwoven.

We embrace science, it's method and knowledge, and we regard it as far superior to that unsavory intermesh of myths, superstition, and willful self deceit that is the substance of religion.

But the trump card of religion, its point of honor and compelling promise is the possibility of immortality. Pascal's famous wager leaves open the possibility that it may well be a monstrous hoax, but tempts us with the possibility of its truth.

As human beings, we have demonstrated in every generation a willingness to embrace that tempting lie, even as the damning evidence of its falsity continues to accumulate. For the most part that willingness has been mandated by the misery, hopelessness and despair of everyday life for most of our fellow humans over the entire time of our consciousness as a species.

But now things are different. Widespread education, communication, and culture have spread throughout the world. What we may know about our world and ourselves is limited only by our individual interest and ability. Virtually all the history, culture, and knowledge of the past and present is “online” and freely available.

An examination of our treasure requires us to have and exercise our inherent capacity for rational thought, that when coupled with a rigorous education results in critical thinking, logic, cultural knowledge, and the systematic rejection of one dimensional hamburgers.

Dale was a wry, self deprecating person who was quirky, clever, well educated and the kind of perfect companion for an evening's conversation that one might wish for but seldom find. He had the misfortune to have the kind of illness that was an unrelenting source of pain, a true test of humanity shining through that intensity, and a triumph of human endurance of which we seem to have had more than our share lately.


Dale knew death and was private in it, but he shared the part of himself that we will always remember, and that is now part of us. Jim Peterson



## Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – May, 2014 Calendar

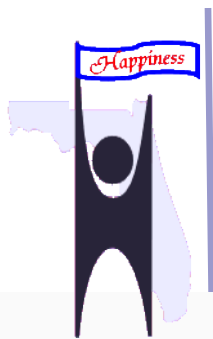
2

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

5-03, 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday, 2:00 PM	<b>CLEARWATER</b> – Countryside Library on 580 The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: Regular meeting - See page 3 <a href="http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/">http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/</a>	
05-11, 2nd Sunday, 1:30 PM	<b>Tampa</b> See page 6 for details Atheists of Florida	Details & to <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/</a>	
5-11, Sunday, 7 PM	<b>BRANDON</b> – Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub. <b>RSVP</b> . <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/">http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/</a>	
5-19, Monday, 7 PM	<b>NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD</b> – Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. <b>RSVP at Web site</b> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/">http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/</a> <b>RSVP</b>	
5-17, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 11:00 AM	<b>TAMPA</b> – North Tampa Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic:: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/">http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/</a>	
5-18 Sunday, 5 P.M	<b>CLEARWATER</b> Humanist Society of the Suncoast See page 4	Sunday Social Dinner for all members, friends and others interested in conversing with Humanists	
5-18, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 3 PM	<b>BRANDON</b> CFI Skeptics in the Pub	Lunch & discussion. Click to <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
5-24, 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:30 AM	<b>NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE</b> – CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. <b>RSVP</b> Details: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
5-26, Usually, Every last Monday, 6 PM	<b>N. Pinellas Area</b> CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	<b>RSVP is required</b> if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here <i>before</i> midnight, January 25th. <a href="http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/">http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/</a>	
5-18 - 7:00 AM Saturday	<b>Plant City</b> Atheists of Brandon (proposed) Camping Trip	In the wood, without god still good, though odd.	
6-01, Sunday, 12:30 AM	<b>CLEARWATER</b> – UU Humanists,	<b>Regular Sunday meeting.</b> See page 7 for more information	
5-On Hiatus	<b>St. Petersburg</b> <b>Astronomy Club</b>	Details, location, & and RSVP to: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club">www.meetup.com/st-petersburg-astronomy-club</a>	
5-03 Saturday, 4 PM	<b>Bradenton</b> - South Florida Museum Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. See page 13 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa">/www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa</a> October: Annual Humanists at Disney in Orlando. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/">https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/</a>	
5-00 TBA see <a href="#">Web site</a>	<b>SARASOTA</b> – Humanists of Sarasota Bay	Many events: Details: <a href="#">Web site</a> <a href="http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html">http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html</a>	
5-00 TBA	<b>TAMPA</b> - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club	See <b>Website</b> : <a href="http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi">www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-mosi</a> for all details.	
5- TBA	<b>TAMPA</b> Humanities Institute at USF	See <a href="#">website</a> for full listing of many events and calendar.	

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

**Watch for major COR events  
scheduled throughout the year !**



# The Humanist Society<sup>3</sup> of the Suncoast News

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

May 3rd 2014

Volume 22 No. 5 May, 2014

Now is the Time to

~ **Join** ~

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast.  
**Annual Dues**

- \_ Trial -3 month- free news
- \_ **Regular -\$25.**
- \_ **Reg. Couple -\$30.**
- \_ **Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin)**
- \_ **Life -\$200.**
- \_ **Life Couple -\$250.**
- \_ **Associate -\$10.**
- \_ **Contribution for growth (See [pg. 5](#))**



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

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

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(Privacy respected)

Send tax deductible dues to:  
Marios Psomas, Treasurer  
Humanist Society of the Suncoast  
1013 Connecticut Rd  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689



\*= optional



Shawna Vercher

## Shawna Vercher

### *Becoming Fearless: A New Way to Create Community Change*

Shawna Vercher has been something of a media star over the last 7 years. Shawna volunteered for a number of campaigns and worked most notably on the National Rapid Response Team for the Obama 2008 campaign.

Shawna began her work in the media as a voice for key issues and political campaigns. She has appeared on dozens of television stations, on hundreds of radio stations, and in national blogs. She became known in the industry as a person capable of breaking down a situation from a common sense and calming perspective, even when situations were tense or divisive - such as when she covered the shooting of Gabrielle Giffords live on the air.

Shawna became a radio talk show host, broadcasting to millions across the country. She engaged with listeners on the air and online, hearing their concerns and sharing their stories on the air and as a guest columnist for the Huffington Post. She will also speak of her current activities and concerns.

Ms. Vercher will be introduced by **Toni Van Pelt**, whose humanist credentials include a long stint with the Center for Inquiry, serving in the Tampa Bay area office in Tampa. She is currently serving as the director of Public Policy for the Institute for Science and Human Values. She is also the SE Regional Director of the National Organization for Women Board.



## Tampa Bay Harvest

DONATION BOX

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

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

Please join us for  
this free and open  
discussion.

**Saturday, May  
3rd, 2014  
at 2 PM  
at**

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

**Many members go to  
dinner afterwards.**

## Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:

**Cognitive Neurosciences Inc. or, The  
Therapist Project, or, Linda Gurvitz, or  
Patricia Walters.**

For Addiction Problems, see:

**Lifering Secular Recovery**





*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

## The Movable Feast: the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner

# Island Way Grill

Our monthly social dinner will be held at the Island Way Grill on Sunday May 18th at 5:00PM. This fine restaurant is located at 20 Island Way about half way across the Memorial Causeway, a continuation of route 60 through Clearwater on the way to Clearwater Beach. They offer a large selection of early bird specials for \$14.90 per person which includes soup or salad, and a chef's desert.

[Check it out at [www.islandwaygrill.com](http://www.islandwaygrill.com)] Note: must have orders in by 5:30PM for early bird specials! Please reserve with Glenn Paul by phone at 727-595-3347 or email [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com) by Saturday, May 17th.

Everyone has liked this place for a number of years - so let's get together to eat - and talk over world problems?

## Laugh Lines Classical Come Backs 5-14

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." - Samuel Johnson

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." - Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - Forrest Tucker

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.." - Oscar Wilde

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts.. . For support rather than illumination. " - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx

5/14

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

**Lois Fries, Secretary**  
**Anita Garcia**  
**Dave Kovar, Vice President**  
**Beth Maxie**  
**Jim Peterson, President**  
**Frank Prah**  
**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](mailto: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

### Next meeting:

Saturday, **May 19th**, 2014, 11:00 AM

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

We will be at our **new venue** in:



### The North Tampa Public Library

8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)



## A Progressive Headquarters for The Tampa Bay area

It has long been a dream for those of us who have struggled to advance the cause of Humanism, critical thinking, environmental awareness, compassionate social policies, and a defense of art, music, and science, to have a real building; a central office in our area.

With the move of AoF from it's current location, comes a new opportunity for our organizations to organize a new cooperative, based on the Coalition of Reason, and dedicated to providing a foundation for a more powerful response to the problems of our world.

Such a building would provide office facilities, meeting space, and storage for equipment and materials for all the constituent organizations.

It will be as close to being a central location as possible; just south of the Tampa airport and easily accessible to the interstate, veterans expressway, and State rd. 60.

To make this dream come true, we need organizational subscriptions and a team of local individual supporters willing to make a small pledge.

Humanism is a way of life, and a commitment to the success of our species. We need concrete institutions to create a sustainable base for the realization of our aspirations.

This is an idea still in the early stages of discussion. If you would like to contribute in any way; whether ideas or financing, please let us know. JP

## GOOD WITHOUT A GOD

On April 7th, over 25 humanist & atheists joined over 3000 religious participants at Tropicana Field for the FAST Social Justice Rally. The 10th annual Nehemiah rally was the largest, with plans for more attendees next year. Issues included juvenile justice, elementary school reading, dental care for disadvantage youth, and job opportunities for qualified ex-felons. FAST works year round with government leaders to brainstorm no net cost solutions to Pinellas county problems. Hillsborough, Pasco, and Polk have similar programs.



The annual cycle starts again in Fall, with small home-size meetings to discuss issues for next year. All COR are invited to participate and also join in the detail work groups that both research and brainstorm solutions and monitor the integrity of previous year promises.

The COR representatives were readily accepted by the overwhelmingly religious group. Next year, lets add to our presence to prove our motto.

*Dave Kovar*

## Life Ring Secular Recovery

This 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. Or see the website at: <http://www.liferingtampabay.com/meetings.htm>

## HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

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, who barely recognize or are able to say the alphabet or the sound of the letter.

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

In Hillsborough County, contact: **Debra L. Blossom**,  
Program Manager Training and Volunteer Management  
[debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us) 813.872-5254

*Gale Barron*

## Humanist Quotes

*“The things you really need are few and easy to come by; but the things you can imagine you need are infinite, and you will never be satisfied.”*

– Epicurus, *Principle Doctrines*, C300 BCE–  
Robert Green Ingersoll, 1879

# Florida Atheists



*Atheism sprinting into the future!*

**Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins**

Join our Tampa chapter on **Sunday, May 11th at 1:30 PM**, at the regular location, 5103 S West Shore Blvd (North west corner of Price Street and West Shore, in the Puppy Manor building. Park along Price street and use the north entrance of the building). Join us for a production of the *Atheist Forum* addressing the validity of school vouchers in Florida and even nation-wide as members Galen Matson and Joe Reinhardt debate the topic and respond to questions from the audience. **See AoF Meetup for more information.**

**AoF outreach programs** can be found at our **Meetup** site. Current newsletters are **available**; write **Athaifle@aol.com**. AoF's outreach also includes a full scale studio for the production of TV, web, and podcast programs. Your ideas are always welcome to help guide us in such creation.

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**.

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus. Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts (audio & video). 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.

For most people, atheism represents the most focused and powerful criticism of the philosophical worldview with which most of us were raised. It is liberating for the same reason it attracts the enmity of those who are committed to the closed and changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. Because it is such a foundational and wrenching break with the past and because it leads the way in recognizing a broad range of possibilities for both scientific and social progress, atheism is an essential pillar for all other humanist and freethought philosophies. We join our coalition organizations to provide an essential part of the unique spectra of thought and activity that is vital to human progress. From a personal standpoint, 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. ♪



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



## National Secular Movement Update:

**Religious Exemption to Healthcare Individual Mandate** - Advocates for religious privileging show once again that they believe they are above the rules. A religious exemption bill that was never considered by committee is scheduled to hit the House floor for a vote this week. [HR 1814](#) exempts from mandatory health coverage, and the penalties of not obtaining coverage, anyone with a religious objection to anything covered! We need your help quickly to fight this sneaky attempt to add more religious exemptions to our laws. Tell your Representative that making an individual's obligation to obey the law dependent on the law agreeing with their religious beliefs contradicts both constitutional tradition and common sense. Our [Action Alert](#) makes it easy to contact your Representative by email, phone, or even Tweet at them!

## Bank of Wisdom

*Electronic publishing to make the world better*

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>

# 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](mailto:bnorsworthy@verizon.net) Mark Brandt [mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu) Web site: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will be meeting on **Sunday, June 1st, at 12:30 pm**

Our speaker for this meeting will be

**Dave Dockery.** He will bring his expertise in technology to the question of its effect on our lives in the future.

See page 12 for an outstanding achievement from UU Humanists.



## Florida NOW

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

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

The Florida National Organization for Women is a group dedicated to taking action to bring ALL women into full equality and participation through changing policy, law and culture. This mission attracts women and men of diverse backgrounds and gives us the ability to look at the systemic oppression in our lives and determine actions that will bring about change for all women.

Often, we are contacted by women and men who are facing "legal" situations, or in need of individual help. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide direct services, and for legal reasons we can not provide referrals for lawyers or other services. If you need these services, please consider doing an internet search for local attorneys, referral services, legal aide, domestic violence shelters, or other terms that are appropriate for your individual situation. Good luck.

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

*Kurt Vonnegut*

Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association

# FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



The summary of the landmark Senate report detailing rampant CIA torture during the Bush years has finally made it to President Obama's desk. **But the White House has said that—incredibly—the CIA will take the lead in redacting that summary report before we can read it.**

Do you notice a conflict of interest there? The CIA is the agency that **tortured** people, **lied** about it, and then even **spied** on the computers of the Senate committee staffers who were investigating it.

Our lawyers are confirming that the torture report summary will be released in a few weeks. **And if it isn't censored, the details in it could blow the lid off the vast extent of CIA brutality since September 11th.** But if the CIA has its way, we may never know the full truth.

[Sign the petition now calling on President Obama to stop the CIA from censoring the Senate's torture report before it's too late.](#)

President Obama has the authority to decide what minimal redactions, if any, will be made to the summary report. The worst thing he could do is let the CIA decide instead.

This is the same president that has claimed that his administration is the "**most transparent in history.**" So we need to publicly hold him to his word.

[Stand with thousands of ACLU supporters and tell President Obama to keep his promise of transparency and make sure the CIA doesn't censor key findings in the torture report.](#) 5/14

**People**  
**Over Politics**



## The Humanities Institute of USF

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

The USF Humanities Institute, established in 2003, provides a forum where ideas are debated, values are clarified, and students, faculty, and community come together to envision a better world through scholarship, debate, and public programs.

We showcase the scholarship of USF faculty from across the disciplines, as well as hosting renowned scholars and sponsoring small conferences and symposia on topics developed with faculty and students. We are developing distinctive signature themes, and strengthening our focus on relevance and community engagement, demonstrating that the joy and challenge of the humanities belong to everyone.

As part of our mission to encourage important research in the humanities, the Institute provides summer grants for humanities-focused research projects. Following the National Endowment for the Humanities, we foster a broad and inclusive definition of humanities, to include the contributions of scholars in language, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, religion, ethics, arts, and humanistic social sciences.

### Mailing Address

Humanities Institute  
4202 E. Fowler Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33620  
CPR 107

[Click here for Our 2014 schedule](#) 5/14

# Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future



TBPC is an autonomous project of the Humanist Society.

**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](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

## **A new Legal Hope** **For controlling Carbon Emissions**

While industry scoffs at the importance of climate-change lawsuits, Big Carbon is thought to be taking them very seriously in private—especially after a federal appeals court found in 2005 that US cities and even individuals suffering economic and other damages from climate change had standing to sue under the National Environmental Policy Act. The plaintiffs included the cities of Oakland, California, and Boulder, Colorado, along with several members of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, ranging from a maple tree farmer to a marine biologist. An analyst with the conservative Pacific Legal Foundation called the idea of such a lawsuit “nuts”—but within four years, a federal judge had ruled for the plaintiffs, opening the courthouse doors to new classes of litigants.

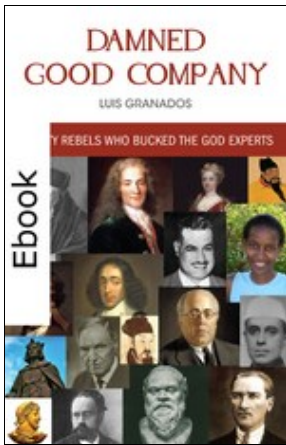
Some legal analysts believe that fossil fuel producers could be vulnerable to fraud or civil conspiracy charges if it can be legally proved that companies like ExxonMobil and Peabody Coal spent millions funding climate-change-denying organizations like the Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Greening Earth Society, while internally acknowledging that the science supporting anthropogenic (i.e., human-caused) climate change was a settled issue. That could put Big Carbon in roughly the same position as Big Tobacco was in the early 1990s, when cigarette makers continued to cultivate public doubt about their product’s harmfulness long after they had accepted that it was addictive and deadly. As the tobacco suits lurched forward, documents—as well as some infamous congressional testimony—proved the industry’s bad faith, swaying public opinion against tobacco. It was that, along with the massive wave of lawsuits by all fifty state attorneys general, that helped persuade Congress to bring the cigarette makers under the federal regulatory umbrella.

In the case of energy, anthropogenic climate change has been accepted science since at least 1990—meaning that the coal, oil and gas industries have been on notice for at least twenty-five years that they are making the planet uninhabitable. It was also in the early '90s that the energy industry began to aggressively push what it pretended was a “counter science” of climate-change denial, even as it continued to dump a substantial portion of total historic CO2 emissions into the earth’s atmosphere.

Click [www.tampabaypostcarbon.com](http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com) for more. 5/14 JP

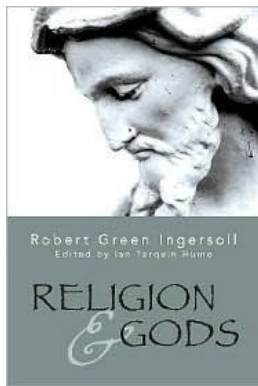


# The Humanist Press



## Damned Good Company By Luis Granados

In *Damned Good Company: Twenty Rebels Who Bucked the God Experts*, author Luis Granados explores twenty cases, from Socrates to Ayaan Hirsi Ali, of brave challenges against those claiming a special authority from God. The author was recently the guest of the Tampa Humanists and delivered a memorable lecture. Paperback \$15.00 378 Pages, [Order here.](#)



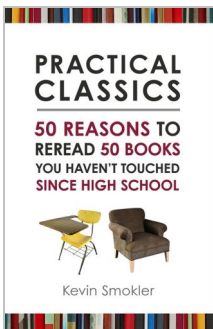
Amid the 21st century's escalating religious tensions, Robert Green Ingersoll's views on the substance of religion and gods offer a firm foundation of logic and independent thought leading to a life examined and a life of happiness free of the shackles of religion. **Prometheus** Pins buttons, stickers,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

## Evolve Fish

<http://evolvefish.com/>

**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!

## Prometheus Press



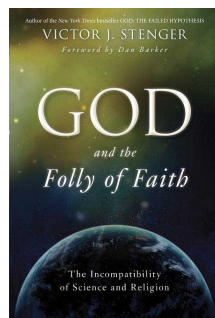
### Practical Classics: 50 Reasons to Reread 50 Books You Haven't Touched Since High School.

A canon of contemporary literature that will re-illuminate our time and your life.

\$18.00 Paperback, 320 pages. [Order here:](#)

### God and the Folly of Faith: The Incompatibility of Science and Religion By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.

The story of the fight against superstition has been told before, but never like this. Victor Stenger confronts the battle between religious superstition and science with the eye of a trained physicist and the practicality of a superb teacher. 409 pages, Paperback, \$20.00 [Order here](#)



# The Matt Cooper

## Memorial Humanist Library.

Humanist Society members (only) can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to Marios Psomas at: [marios\\_psomas@hotmail.com](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com). Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

### # 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
25. Breaking the Spell
26. The Philosophy of Humanism
27. The Quotable Atheist
28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God. G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About Rest of World. Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
35. What the Dog Saw
36. Sway
37. The Better Angels of our Nature
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded
40. Gaming the Vote
41. Subversion Fable
43. Evolution and the Big Question
44. Why People Believe Weird Things
45. The World is Curved
46. The Snow Ball
47. The Moral Landscape
48. How We Believe
49. Full House
50. The Origins of Political Order
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain
53. Science Friction
54. Genius
55. Inevitable Illusions
56. Sex & God
57. Being Right Is Not Enough
58. Loser Takes All
59. Taking Back Politics
60. What Happened in Ohio?
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible
63. Database Systems (Complete Ver.)
64. Reluctant Database Administrators
65. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
66. Inevitable Illusions
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do
69. Bonk
70. What Money Can't Buy
71. Financial Shenanigans
72. Sex & God
73. Best American Non required Reading
74. Reporting at Wit's End
75. Corporations are not People
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president?
77. Culture of Honor
78. Rot on the Vine

### 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  
 C. Ryan, & C. Jetha  
 Eric Alderman  
 Sam Harris  
 Lester Brown  
 Christopher Hitchens  
 George Soros  
 David Niose  
 Peter Irons  
 Diamond-Robinson  
 Christopher Hitchens  
 Douglas Rushkoff  
 Stephen Hawkins  
 Daniel Dennett  
 Corliss Lamont  
 Jack Huberman  
 Alan Taylor  
 John Fund  
 Darrel Ray  
 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  
 Francis Fukuyama  
 Isaac Asimov  
 Harriet Smith, Editor  
 Michael Shermer  
 James Gleick  
 Piatrelli & Palmarini  
 Darryl Ray  
 Paul Waldman  
 Mark Crispin Miller  
 Cathy Allen  
 Fitrakis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman  
 Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith  
 Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis  
 Josef Finsel  
 Isaac Asimov  
 M. Piattelli-Palmarini  
 Peter McWilliams  
 Mary Roach  
 Michael J. Sandel  
 Howard Shilit  
 Darrel Ray, ED.D  
 Dave Eagers  
 St. Clair McKelway  
 Clements  
 Cragun – Phillips  
 Nisbett – Cohen  
 Stenesh



## Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008 at the Carrollwood Cultural Center in Tampa, every third Monday at 7. Come cogitate with us!

## Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



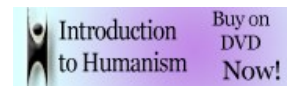
**Jennifer Hancock** started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year.

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](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/).



## 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.

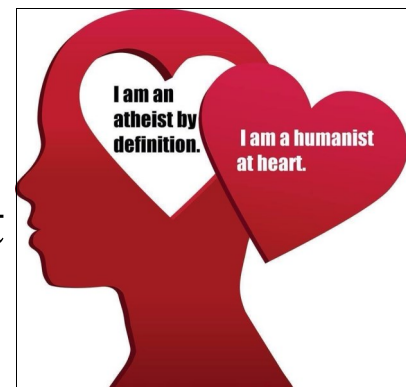
**On the web at:** [www.maaf.info](http://www.maaf.info)

Contact: Chris

([christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:christbrown@yahoo.com))

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

## I am a Humanist at Heart



This graphic came across my desk a couple of days ago. And I loved it. I often get asked, why do I self identify as a Humanist? Am I ashamed of being an atheist? Am I trying to hide the fact I'm an atheist?

The answer is no - I'm not ashamed or scared to self label as an atheist. I do it all the time. I just find the topic of atheism to be incredibly boring. It's of very little consequence to me. I'm one of those folks that was raised without religion, so I suppose that makes me post theistic, or rather apatheistic.

Anyway - what really gets me excited is talking about my values and how I might better manifest my values in my daily life and how much easier and better my life seems to be when I succeed in doing that.

I get super excited when the topic turns to human rights. I've been active in the human rights movement since I was a tween!

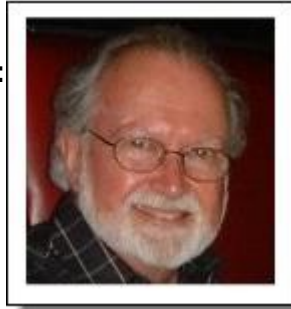
Caring for humans, being concerned about humans, trying to be a better human, that's where my heart is. And yes, I do wear my heart on my sleeve by actively self identifying as Humanist.

*Jennifer Hancock*

# Institute for Rational Living

is the official psychoanalytical representative of Center for Inquiry:

Institute for Rational Living  
2502 N Rocky Point Dr, Suite 1010  
Tampa, FL 33607-1406  
Office Phone: 1-727-278-8446  
Office Fax: 1-727-391-8459  
[vparr@ishv.net](mailto:vparr@ishv.net)



Vincent Parr, PhD  
Clinical Psychologist at Institute for Advanced Study MRL  
President at Institute for Rational Living

Dr. Parr is a licensed Clinical Psychologist with over 40 years experience in Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) and Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). He also has 23 + years of experience in Mindfulness and Zen. He uses these two very powerful approaches to help people reach freedom -- that is, the freedom that comes from maximally eliminating suffering (often defined as chronic disappointment and frustration) and disturbance (Anger, Anxiety, Depression, and Guilt).

Dr. Parr has been a consultant to the United States Air Force, Hayatt International, Bic Pen Corporation, the City of St. Petersburg, the St. Petersburg Police Department, the Institute for Rational Living, the Institute for Advanced study in Rational Psychotherapy, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Tampa for nine years. In addition, he sits on the national Board of Directors for the *Institute for Science and Human Values*.



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

## The ISHV Office of Public Policy

Toni Van Pelt, Director

The purpose of the *Institute for Science and Human Values'* office of public policy is to elevate reason and science in our nation's capital. Never before in our lifetime has our democratic way of life, our Constitution and the rule of law, been under such a strong attack by those who hold power in the United States government...by many who claim to govern in the name of a supernatural power. *ISHV* is standing up and stepping on stage, to champion a rational, secular, democracy by influencing the direction of national discussion and public policy. We call on political leaders of both parties to base public policy, insofar as possible, on empirical evidence and neutrality, instead of the religious faith of some. In other words, to maintain a strict separation between state and church. Further we strive to shield and promote scientific research and advancement, free of political interference. How do we do this? We engage grassroots activism nation-wide and work in coalition with like minded organizations in Washington, DC to champion and advance *ISHV's* commitment to social justice, planetary ethics, and codifying into law shared values for the human family. Please join us by signing up for *ISHV* action alerts on our website or our FaceBook page today.

Ed Note: Read Toni's 2013 report on ISHV activities [here](http://www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/public%20policy.htm#x:2013:32Report:32from:32TVP):  
<http://www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/public%20policy.htm#x:2013:32Report:32from:32TVP>  
5-14



**American Humanist Association Wins Lawsuit Against Cross Monument in Lake Elsinore, California** April 23, 2014 – City officials decline to appeal ruling of federal judge

**Humanists File Lawsuit Against "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance in New Jersey** April 21, 2014 – School-sponsored Pledge violates state constitution's equal protection law

**AHA Sues for Equal Treatment of Humanist Inmates in Federal Prisons** April 8, 2014 – Lawsuit filed against correctional officials at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

**Lawsuit Demands Removal of 40-Foot Christian Cross from Government Property** February 25, 2014 – The AHLC files a suit on behalf of three plaintiffs demanding the removal of a 40-foot Christian cross on government property in , MD.

**Minnesota Public School Told to End Field Trips to Christian Church** February 3, 2014 – The AHLC has warned school administrators in Golden Valley, MN to stop sending students on field trips to a nearby Christian church to create "manna" packages" for a Christian group.

**Federal Appeal Filed to End Religious Elements in South Carolina Public School's Graduation Ceremonies** January 27, 2014 – The AHLC is challenging a district court's failure to stop a South Carolina public school from including religious elements during graduation.

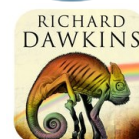
## Find out more about end of life issues.

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

<http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm> or  
[www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org)



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



*The Magic of Reality*

Download it to your I-pad to experience this award winning multi media book.

## PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



# Proclamation

## DAY OF REASON

*WHEREAS*, the application of reason, more than any other means, has proven to offer hope for human survival upon Earth, improving conditions within the universe, and cultivating intelligent, moral, and ethical interactions among people and their environments; *and*

*WHEREAS*, those who wrote the Constitution of the United States of America, the basic document for governing the affairs of humankind within the United States, based it upon principles delineated within the philosophies distinguishing the historical Age of Reason; *and*

*WHEREAS*, most citizens of the United States purport to value reason and its application; *and*

*WHEREAS*, it is the duty and responsibility of every citizen to promote the development and application of reason;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that Thursday, May 1, 2014, be recognized as

## DAY OF REASON

and the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners encourages all citizens, residents, and visitors to join in observing this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of human problems and for the welfare of human kind.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida, to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2014.

*Karen Williams Seel*  
KAREN WILLIAMS SEEL, Chair

*Susan Latvala*  
SUSAN LATVALA, Vice-Chair



*Charlie Justice*  
CHARLIE JUSTICE, Commissioner

*Janet C. Long*  
JANET C. LONG, Commissioner

*John Morrone*  
JOHN MORRONE, Commissioner

*Norm Roche*  
NORM ROCHE, Commissioner

*Kenneth T. Welch*  
KENNETH T. WELCH, Commissioner



## The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values.

To oppose and supplant the mythological narratives of the past, and the dogmas of the present, the world needs an institution devoted to promoting science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values. The Center for Inquiry is that institution.



*Rick O'Keefe*

At the Center for Inquiry, we believe that evidence-based reasoning, in which humans work together to address common concerns, is critical for modern world civilization. Moreover, unlike many other institutions, we maintain that scientific methods and reasoning should be utilized in examining the claims of both pseudoscience and religion. We reject mysticism and blind faith. No topic should be placed off limits to scrutiny—certainly not fringe science and religion, which have an enormous influence on beliefs and conduct.

We also maintain that values are properly the subject of study and discussion as much as empirical claims. The Center for Inquiry studies and promotes human values based on a naturalistic outlook. Ideological doctrine and religious dogma have no more right to dictate our moral norms than they do to influence scientific research.

The Center for Inquiry supports research, but our mission activities go far beyond sound scholarship. The Center for Inquiry, and its affiliates, the [Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](#) and the [Council for Secular Humanism](#), also carry out their work through education, publishing, advocacy, and social services. The Center for Inquiry has established dozens of regional centers and communities, which provide a means of delivering educational programs and services on a local level and provide a venue for like-minded individuals to meet and share experiences. In addition, the Center for Inquiry has affiliates and sponsors programs in many different countries. A secular society ultimately should embrace all of humanity, not just selected countries.

In aiming to foster a secular society, we do not seek to abridge the rights of believers. We vigorously object to government support of religion and the use of religious dogma to justify public policy; we do not oppose the free exercise of religion. The secular society we are building is a community of reason and compassion in which the dignity and fundamental rights of all individuals are respected.

Fostering a secular society requires attention to many specific goals, but three goals in particular represent the focus of our activities:

1. an end to the influence that religion and pseudoscience have on public policy,
2. an end to the privileged position that religion and pseudoscience continue to enjoy in many societies,
3. an end to the stigma attached to being a nonbeliever, whether the nonbeliever describes her/himself as an atheist, agnostic, humanist, freethinker or skeptic.

*Rick O'Keefe*



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

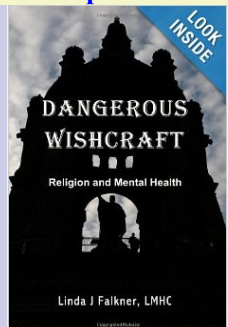
Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

*Dave 'Doc' Dockery* President,

Find us at: [www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org)  
**We repair our members computers!**

Order this important new book now from [Amazon](#)

By local Humanistic Counselor,  
**Linda Faulkner**



**Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.**  
**Sarasota, Florida**

### Calendar of Upcoming main events:

**May 14:** 12 lunch, 1:45 PM **Non-fiction book review and discussion group.**  
 New Dynasty Restaurant, 6131 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota ([map](#))  
[more details»](#)

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

***Dangerous Wishcraft***, By Linda Faulkner is a must read for anyone who has ever questioned the truth of religious beliefs, explores the dangers of relying on prayer ~wishcraft~ rather than using rational thinking skills, and the often tragic mental, emotional, and physical consequences that can result. Religion, which may have originated as a way to explain the world, has now become an anchor in the fight against scientific knowledge. Modern evangelical religions are attempting to drag the world back into the Dark Ages. This book shines a light, through stories of clients scarred by religion combined with scientific research, on the damage religious fanaticism can inflict on both individual and global levels, and also presents potential strategies for protection from the dangerous practice of wishcraft.



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

## Practical Freethought

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

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

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

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

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

Non-theists are a large minority, larger than many minorities having much more political and cultural influence than we do. Based on the US Census Bureau estimate of Florida’s 2008 population and several polls, we estimate our statewide constituency at about 2,800,000 residents (more than 400,000 in the Tampa Bay quad-county area). TampaBayCoR has organized to increase our standing in the marketplace of ideas and to take our rightful place at the table of acceptance and equal rights. We invite all nontheists to support us in our efforts by joining and actively participating in one of TBCoR’s constituent groups.

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

R.O.

### Holidays of Special Interest

- 2014 is the UN International Year of Family Farming

May is National Recommitment Month

- 1st May Day
- 3rd World Press Freedom Day
- 10th Clean up your Room Day
- 14th Dance like a chicken Day
- 18th International Museum Day
- 24th International Jazz Day
- 31st World No Tobacco Day



#### TBCoR Leadership Team 2014

Mark Brandt, Chris Brown, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O’Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas  
UUCH MAF TBHF CFI HSS, TBPCC AoF

Editorial E-Mail: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

#### Be Included!

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