

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 9 September 2013 Jim Peterson,

What's Inside?

- Unified Calendar.... 2
- Humanist Society..... 3 *
- Tampa Humanists.... 5 *
- Atheists of FL 6 *
- Clr.UU-Humanists... 7 *
- Post Carbon Council.. 8
- Freethought Films.... 9
- Humanist Families... 10 *
- Americans United.... 10
- Military Atheists..... 10 *
- Ctr. For Inquiry..... 12 *
- Tampa Bay Skeptics. 13
- Coalition News..... 14

* Member organizations

Directory

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar

Rick O'Keefe

Web site

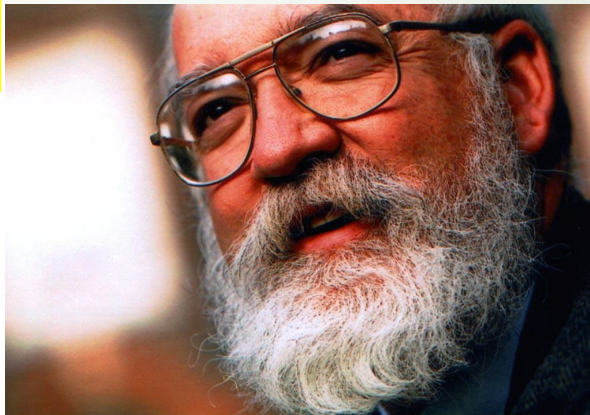
Jim Peterson

Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects

Mark Brandt



Daniel Dennett

“**H**uman consciousness is just about the last surviving mystery. A mystery is a phenomenon that people don't know how to think about - yet. There have been other great mysteries: the mystery of the origin of the universe, the mystery of life and reproduction, the mystery of the design to be found in nature, the mysteries of time, space, and gravity. These were not just areas of scientific ignorance, but of utter bafflement and wonder.

We do not yet have all the answers to any of the questions of cosmology and particle physics, molecular genetics and evolutionary theory, but we do know how to think about them With consciousness, however, we are still in a terrible muddle.

Consciousness stands alone today as a topic that often leaves even the most sophisticated thinkers tongue-tied and confused. And, as with all of the earlier mysteries, there are many who insist -- and hope -- that there will never be a demystification of consciousness.”

— [Daniel C. Dennett, *Consciousness Explained*](#)

One of America's leading intellectuals and writers, Dr. Dennett, is scheduled to be TBCoR's keynote speaker at Clearwater on Darwin Day-2014 in February. Tickets will be on sale soon at many of our constituent organizations. Get yours now for the best pricing.

Is the United States a Christian Nation?

Eddie Tabash has argued several cases on this issue before the U.S. Supreme Court.

This **September 17th** presentation will review the remarkable history of the creation of both the original Constitution and the Bill of Rights to clearly demonstrate that the Founders specifically intended to establish a constitutional system in which believers and nonbelievers are equal and in which no religion is to ever have any preference over any other religion.

Edward Tabash is a constitutional lawyer. He chairs the board of directors of the Center for Inquiry, Council for Secular Humanism and Committee for Skeptical Inquiry.



Edward Tabash

He also chairs the nationwide legal committee of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He speaks **7 PM** at UU Clearwater, **2470 Nursery Road** (West of Hwy 19, on north side of Nursery Rd.) Clearwater, FL In the Octagon (main building)

He will be interviewed on WMNF, 88.5 on the 17th after the 11 AM news on Rob Lorei's *Radioactivity*. (<http://www.wmnf.org>)

Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

[Virginia Kohl-Lieberman](#), AHA certified



**HUMANIST
CHARITIES**

[Click to connect!](#)

Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – September, 2013 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.

9-7, 1 st Saturday, 2 PM	CLEARWATER– No Meeting this Month! The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: See page 3 http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
9 08, Sunday, 1:30 PM	S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida–Tampa Chapter	Details & to RSVP: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/
09-08, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON– Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub RSVP to Kathryn before Friday, Sept 6th noon. http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/
09-16, Monday, 6:30 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. RSVP at Web site: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
09-21, 3 rd Saturday, 10:30 AM	TAMPA– Town & Country Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic: see page 5 http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
09-22. Sunday, 5PM	CLEARWATER Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Social Dinner. See page 4 for details. RSVP
00-15 3 rd Sunday, 11AM	BRANDON CFI Sunday Mixer	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
09-28, 4 th Saturday, 10:30 AM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE– Readers Book Discussion	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. RSVP Details: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
09-30, Every last Monday, 6 PM	N. Pinellas Area CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here before noon, Sept 28 http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
09-, see Web site	S. PINELLAS– Humanist film Meetup	Feature film TBA RSVP at: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
09-17, Sunday, 12:30 PM	CLEARWATER– CFI, UU Humanists, & ACLU	SPECIAL EVENT! CFI presents Eddie Tabash, JD, "America was never a Christian Nation".
09-28, Saturday, 11 AM	SW TAMPA— Tampa Bay Skeptics	Tampa Bay Skeptics quarterly meeting Web site http://TampaBaySkeptics.org/
see Web site	BRADENTON - Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. /www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa October: Disney in Orlando. https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/
see Web site	SARASOTA – Humanists of Sarasota Bay Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html	Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html
Twice Monthly	TAMPA - Café Philo, Philosophical Discussion Group.	See Website : www.philotampa.org for all details.



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

Watch for Big COR events coming up!

December 7th - Winterfest - Humanlight Celebration : a potluck at Clearwater UUC

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



The Humanist Society³ of the Suncoast News

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

Our September meeting has been cancelled because of library activities. But for the rest of the year, and through 2014, our venue is secure.



Next Month (**October 5th**) We will start our new Humanist **Reader's Theatre**. *Jackie Jordan*, our Broadway connection, has agreed to direct and coordinate some fine and original presentations.

Plans are under way for the Readers' Theatre (The Humanist Hams?) to treat the group to their first presentation. This method is essentially an open book dramatic reading. Anyone can do it; the more the merrier! Our October meeting will be a double feature! One is a one act play written by our very own, Dorothy Wylie. This touching play is a combination of pathos and comedy; an aging couple facing the wife's onset of Alzheimer's and how they handle it. An appropriate material considering that November is the month dedicated to stamping out this disease.

The second feature is a vignette by James Thurber and presents another married couple with a completely different relationship and problem and the ending will amuse anyone with a sense of justice,...and humor.

Anyone interested in participating is urged to call Jackie Jordan, (727) 217-0915. We only have a month to pull this together and help is needed NOW! The best time to call Jackie is between 5:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., leaving a message if necessary. Be sure to let her know what days of the week and times are best for you so she can plan rehearsals accordingly. Don't be shy, you know you'll like it! JJ

For November, we will hear from author, **Clair Conner** on the imminent danger of right wing extremism. In her new book, *Wrapped in the Flag*, she discusses her family's history of involvement with the birth of the radical John Birch Society. Her story provides a unique insight into our country's political culture.



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
our next free and
open discussion.**

**Saturday,
October 5th.
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,

Volume 21 No. 9 September, 2013

Latest books from the Matt Cooper Humanist Library. Members (only) can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to Marios Psomas at: marios_psomas@hotmail.com. Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!**

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

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 Niiose
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

NEW!

51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain
53. Science Friction
54. Genius
55. Inevitable Illusions
56. Sex & God
57. Me of little Faith

And More...

- Isaac Asimov
Harriet Smith, Editor
Michael Shermer
James Gleick
Piatrelli & Palmarini
Darryl Ray
Lewis Black



*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

The Moveable Feast for September will be at:

Island Way Grill

Our monthly social dinner will be held on Sunday September 22nd 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 \$12.50 per person which includes soup or salad, coffee or tea and a chef's desert. [Check it out at www.islandwaygrill.com]

Note: must have orders in by **5:30PM** for early bird specials!

Please reserve with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com by Saturday September 21st.

Laugh Lines *Funny by any Measure*

1	Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter	Eskimo Pi
2	2000 pounds of Chinese Soup	Won ton
3	1 millionth of a mouthwash	1 microscope
4	Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement	1 bananosecond
5	Weight an evangelist carries with God	1 billigram
6	Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour	Knotfurlong
7	365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer	1 Lite year
8	16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone	1 Rod Serling
9	Half a large intestine	1 semicolon
10	1,000,000 aches	1 megahurtz
11	Basic unit of laryngitis	1 hoarsepower
12	Shortest distance between two jokes	a straight line
13	2000 mockingbirds	two kilomockingbirds
14	1 kilogram of falling figs	1 Fig Newton
15	1000 cc of wet socks	1 literhosen
16	8 nickels	2 paradigms

Thanks to: *Connie Purdum*

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

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



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.

7606 Paula Dr., Suite 120
Tampa, FL 33615-4116
813-273-3652

Tampa Humanist Association



Saturday, **September 21st**, 2013, 11:00 PM

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

Because the space at the Jimmie B. Keele Library is unavailable due to construction for the next 8 months or so, we will meet at the

Town & Country Library on, September 21st at 10:30 til 12:30. We will be in **Community Room A** on the first floor next to the bookstore. The library is at 7606 Paula Dr., Suite 120 Tampa, FL 33615-4116 PH. 813-273-3652 [MAP](#)

Our topic:



Coping with Bipolar:

A Layman's Journey through a looking glass world.

Dave Kovar gives us a humanistic perspective on a condition that is a challenge for a great many people. Join us for this illuminating and thought provoking discussion.



~ 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



Humanists of Florida Association

Announces

The Florida Freethought 2013 Conference



On November 2nd and 3rd, you can be among the expectant Floridians from all over the state who will be converging on Orlando for the Florida Freethought 2013 Conference. Speakers include: Various Florida group leaders, a SSA panel with Florida students, **James Randi, Dale McGowan, Dave Silverman, Seth Andrews, Nate Phelps, Jerry Dewitt, Darrel Ray, Sarah Morehead, Jennifer Hancock, Bridgett Crutchfield, Teresa MacBain, Dan Fincke, and Alix Jules.**

For prices and registration click here: <http://floridahumanist.org/registration/>

Venue and hotel information can be found here: <http://floridahumanist.org/venue-hotel/>

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



Humanist Quotes

“God did not create man in his own image. Evidently, it was quite the other way about, which is the painless explanation for the profusion of gods and religions, and the fratricide both between and among faiths, that we see all about us and that has so retarded the development of civilization.”

— [Christopher Hitchens, God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything](#)



Atheists of Florida



Atheism sprinting into the future!

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

AoF outreach programs can be found at our [Meetup](#) site. Current newsletters are **available**: Write 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](#). **A new video program will be created called, "The Dark side Of Atheism" featuring Joe Rienhardt on September 8th 1:30 PM at 5103 S. Westshore Blvd. in Tampa. These programs will give any interested member an opportunity to be part of the video production team.** Our first meeting of every quarter (Jan., April, July, October) is a potluck; the address information is available only to members of our [Meetup](#) since it is usually in a private home.

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

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

We may have only one issue, but it is undoubtedly the most consequential one in the life of every individual person.

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

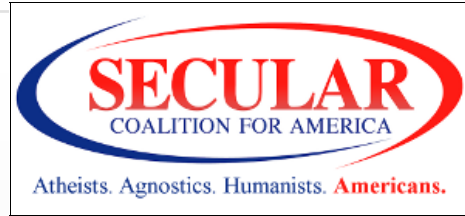


Bank of Wisdom
Electronic publishing to make the world better

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

The Secular Coalition for America has announced a strategic partnership between the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science U.S. and top leadership of the Secular Coalition for America, through the remainder of 2013.

The partnership aims to maximize the strengths of both organizations—drawing on the Secular Coalition's strong nonprofit and strategic planning experience and the Dawkins Foundation's strong web and social media savvy, scientific expertise, and broad outreach. For more information about this exciting new partnership, click [here](#).

Tune in for the best 30 minutes in secularism! The weekly National Movement Call is taking a break this month, but will be back in September. Call in every Thursday at 12:00 pm EST to get all the latest news in our movement from the movers and shakers themselves.



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](mailto:RodrickColbert) or freethinkersusf@gmail.com.

Clearwater UU Humanists

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

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

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

UU Humanists will have their monthly meeting on September 15, Sunday at 12:30 PM: Ryan Cragan's presentation is based on his book, *What You Don't Know About Religion (but should)*, and will be held at the UU Clearwater Octagon. He has a PhD in Sociology and is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Tampa. Also, check out this special presentation:

Eddie Tabash is a Los Angeles area constitutional lawyer. He chairs the board of directors of the Center for Inquiry, Council for Secular Humanism and Committee for Skeptical Inquiry. He also chairs the nationwide legal committee of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He has filed amicus briefs in the United States and California Supreme Courts arguing that all branches of government must treat believers and nonbelievers equally.

This presentation will review the remarkable history of the creation of both the original Constitution and the Bill of Rights to clearly demonstrate that the Founders specifically intended to establish a constitutional system in which believers and nonbelievers are equal and in which no religion is to ever have any preference over any other religion.

The Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay is the sponsor. UUC Humanists and the ACLU, Hillsborough & Pinellas chapters, are co-hosts. The **September 17th** presentation, is free but donations are appreciated.

Come to 2470 Nursery Road (West of Hwy 19, on the north side of Nursery Rd.) in Clearwater, FL *In the Octagon*.

ALSO--listen to an interview & call-in show the same day on Tampa's great community radio station (over the air and on the Internet) WMNF-FL 88.5. The show is Rob Lorei's *Radioactivity*, which starts right after the 11 AM news. (<http://www.wmnf.org>) See [page 1](#) for more.

Life Ring Secular Recovery

This group meets every Monday evening at 8p.m., at Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church at 2817 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater. The meeting takes place in a modular building at the back of the parking lot.

This is a recovery support group for alcoholics and drug addicts who do not believe in, or feel comfortable with, the idea of a higher power as strongly encouraged in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have any questions, feel free to call 727-772-3360.



Clearwater, Florida

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU Supporter,

John Ferguson has been on death row for 35 years. His execution is to take place a few days from now. But Mr. Ferguson is mentally handicapped due to a traumatic brain injury at the age of 21, having been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia over 40 times, and therefore his execution is prohibited under the Eighth Amendment.

[Demand that Governor Rick Scott stop the execution of John Ferguson due to his severe mental illness.](#)

A federal judge declared that the state of Florida used a "patently incorrect" legal standard in determining that Ferguson was competent for execution. Governor Scott has the authority to commute Ferguson's sentence to life imprisonment.

The United States Constitution clearly bars the execution of those who have been proven to be mentally incompetent. John Ferguson has been in and out of mental institutions throughout his life. To put him to death would be a violation of his civil liberties as well as our Constitution.

[Tell Governor Scott to respect the Constitution and stay the execution of a mentally incompetent man.](#)

Thank you for standing with us in support of civil liberties in Florida.



People
Over Politics

The **Humanities Institute of USF** is excited to share our Fall 2013 [newsletter and calendar](#) of events. Inside you can read about our incredible lineup for this semester including:

Our first event on **Sept. 19th** featuring **Christopher DiCarlo**, a philosopher and author who teaches in the Faculty of Human Biology at the University of Toronto.

An evening lecture by **Lawrence Krauss** on **Nov. 12th** as part of our focus on "**Science and Society.**" Krauss is a leading cosmologist and Foundation Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration and Inaugural Director of the Origins Project at Arizona State University. He also costars with Richard Dawkins in the upcoming film, *The Unbelievers*.



Florida Now

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

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

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



TBPPCC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.
Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more. 06/13

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

The Most Common Natural Disaster

Considering that flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States, our resiliency plans should include provisions to protect against potential damage.

You may be thinking "I don't live in a flood area...this isn't for me." According to the National Flood Insurance Program, over 20% of all flood claims each year come from homes outside commonly flooded areas. In fact, homes in low risk areas received over 1/3 of all flood recovery funding in 2011.

If there is water nearby – flooding is possible.

Even areas without a water source nearby can fall victim to damaging waters when significant rainwater does not drain properly.

How do you know if you live in an area with the potential for flooding? Most local environmental agencies have resources available for residents that show high risk areas for flooding. The FEMA website has a useful tool that allows you to enter your address and receive flood risk information.

Remember that flood zones change annually and you should be checking these resources at least once a year in case projected flood zones have changed.

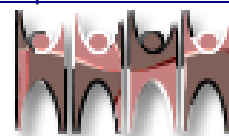
Let's take a look at some ways to prevent flooding when possible and avoid serious damage when flooding is imminent.

[Resilient Communities](#)

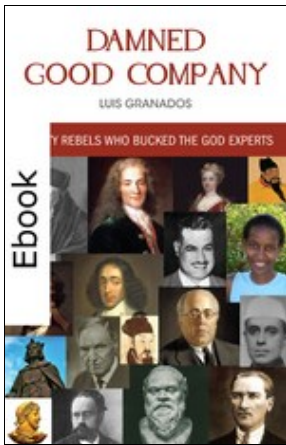
Protect Our Public Lands from Fracking

Surrounded by oil and gas operations in North Dakota's Bakken shale, Theodore Roosevelt National Park is plagued by drilling just beyond its borders. As you approach the park, it's impossible to escape the signs of fracking -- roads destroyed by truck traffic to fracking wells, retention ponds filled with mystery fluids, and flares from drilling rigs lighting the once-dark night sky.

When President Roosevelt encountered destruction like this, he was moved to protect these special places. Now the torch is passed to us. [Help protect our national parks from the dangers of fracking](#). The [Sierra Club](#)



The Humanist Press

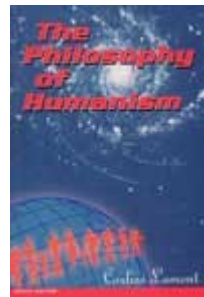


Damned Good Company By Luis Granados

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.](#)

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

In a work that is a standard text and reference in the ongoing international discussion around secular humanism, Lamont offers an argument for a philosophy that advocates for happiness in this life rather than hope for an undefined afterlife. Paperback, 371 pages. \$16.95

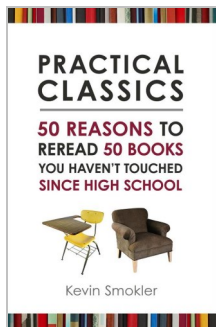


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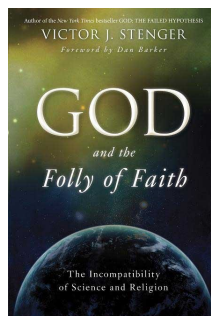
\$18.00 Paperback, 320 pages. [Order here:](#)

God and the Folly of Faith: The Incompatibility of Science and Religion

By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.

The story of the fight against superstition has been told before, but never like this. Victor Stenger confronts the battle between religious superstition and science with the eye of a trained physicist and the practicality of a superb teacher.

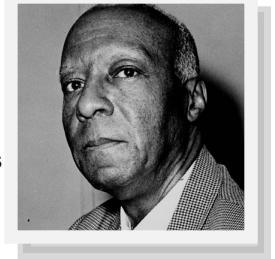
409 pages, Paperback, \$20.00 [Order here](#)



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

The March

This year is the [50th anniversary of the famous 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom](#), a historic event where millions of Americans from different backgrounds and beliefs called for equal civil and economic rights for African Americans. Millions of Americans know of the 1963 march, but few are aware of the humanist connection.



A. Phillip Randolph

Contrary to popular belief, the march wasn't organized by Dr. Martin Luther King but was instead the brainchild of a humanist named Asa Philip Randolph. As a union organizer and leader of the secular wing of the Civil Rights movement, Randolph had first planned the march for July 1941.

Then two decades later, in December 1962, Randolph began planning the historic gathering we all know, with Randolph serving as march director and opening speaker. Impressed with the growing support in the black community for this new March on Washington, President John F. Kennedy delivered a speech on national television on June 11, 1963, calling for a Civil Rights Act. And then, fifty years ago today, a quarter of a million people filled half the National Mall, generating the political momentum needed for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Randolph went on to accept the Humanist of the Year Award from the American Humanist Association in 1970 and sign Humanist Manifesto II in 1973. So on this significant anniversary, when we think of the struggles of those who worked for change, let us include in our memories one of the great humanists of the twentieth century, Asa Philip Randolph. **Roy Speckhardt**
Executive Director, American Humanist Assoc.

An Editorial Opinion

War: A Question for Humanists

In our lifetime the prospect of war and it's reality have been more or less a constant.

As Humanists we recognize that war is the antithesis of everything for which humankind has struggled since civilization began. The destruction, brutality and horror of past wars are regarded with revulsion, while the prospect of the end of our species through nuclear war occupies a place in our minds we are loath to visit.

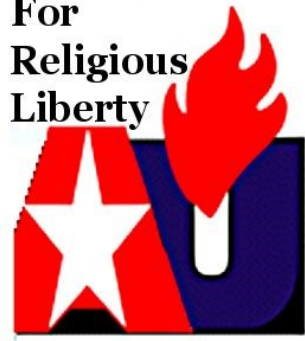
The whimper of small children orphaned and abandoned on the devastated field of battle is not often heard above the stentorian commands issued from national leaders relaying god's own commands to their masses of excited followers.

And yet, the question remains. How does the larger civilization deal with the leadership of nation-states indifferent to the suffering of their people as a result of malicious policies? Obdurate states like Zimbabwe, Burma, and Syria continue to inflict great pain without apparent consequence. But the larger civilization is itself often corrupt and paralyzed by disunity and an aversion to recognize the truth about the challenges that confront it.

It is for us, all of us, to remake the common way of life with the full consciousness of our democratic power and our debt to all who gave us the vision of a better way. Jim Peterson

A Tradition of Advocacy

**For
Religious
Liberty**



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

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



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

**The Military Association of
Atheists and Freethinkers**



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

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

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris

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

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

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

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

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

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

I am currently offering...

Special Course to help with workplace Bullying

What can be done about workplace bullying? It is estimated that one-third of all employees are or have been bullied in the workplace. Bullying is highly stressful and a victim may suffer physical symptoms of stress and may develop PTSD. In a workplace, bullying is known to cause a loss in productivity, high employee turnover, bad reputation and more. In just about every workplace, HR professionals have to spend quite a bit of time dealing with bullying, conflicts and other disruptive behavior.

Bullying is one of the hardest problems to solve and HR has an important role to play in handling and coordinating the effort to eliminate bullying in the workplace. It is critical that HR professionals learn what it takes to stop bullying using the science of operant conditioning and behavior management so that they can employ solutions that actually work.

This program is based on the material found in *The Bully Vaccine* by Jennifer Hancock. All participants will receive a free copy of the book as part of their participation in the program.

For more information, see: <https://humanistlearning.com/workplace-bullying-special-pre-sale/>

This course is not based on folk wisdom or platitudes. You will receive practical, pragmatic information on the science of HOW to get bullies to stop using well studied behavioral management techniques. After this course you will understand why most attempts to intervene fail so that you will be better equipped to eliminate bullying in the workplace.

I wanted to share with you a link to an article about Dr Who as a Humanist parable. I am a huge fan of Dr Who and one of the reasons is because the story lines are humanistic - enjoy - <http://whatculture.com/tv/why-doctor-who->



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

- [AHLC News](#)

Norm Allen to speak at Rice University

Institute for Science and Human Values director of international outreach Norm R. Allen Jr. will speak at the third annual symposium of the Institute for Humanist Studies (IHS) at Rice University in Houston, Texas. The symposium will be held November 22-24, 2013.

The symposium will address the general question, "How Should Humanism Relate to the Non-Humanist World?" Allen will discuss the importance of common moral values, secularism, good science, etc. The papers will be published in a volume through the IHS book series titled "Studies in Humanist Thought and Praxis." Interested parties may also read Allen's paper "The 'Color' of Humanism: Personal Reflections on a Global Reality," in the IHS volume Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism, The Colors of Humanism-Volume 20 (1)-2012, A Special Issue of Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism, pp. 31-38.



Norm Allen

~ Ω ~

Published letters from the Freethought Community Liberate your mind

William Felice's (previous) article brilliantly explains the answer to "why."

Some years ago, I read an anecdote germane to the question. A student complained to her professor about the reading matter he had assigned. The book, she said, wasn't "relevant" to her life.

His answer: "Why did you come to the university? Wasn't it to widen your knowledge and understanding of the world beyond your experience? Wasn't it to enjoy finding out about other peoples, cultures, ideas? In sum, to enrich your inner life?"

Years ago I entertained the idea that "liberal" was related to "liberate." Don't the liberal arts free us from the narrow constraints of "relevant" thinking?

Abigail Ann Martin, *Brandon Aug 23rd, Tampa Bay Times*

Church-state trouble

Under Vladimir Putin's leadership in Russia, the Orthodox Church has assumed an increasingly important role. The new antigay and blasphemy initiatives may be the first of many religious dogmas to be forced on the Russian people.

Is Putin using the church, as Adolf Hitler did in the 1930s, to consolidate power and become the new czar? As Napoleon said when he reinstated the Catholic Church as the official state religion in France, "Religion is great stuff for controlling the common people." This is a glaring example of why separation of church and state is so important.

Frank Prahl, August 13th *St. Petersburg*

JP

Humanists Challenge Forced "So Help Me God" in Air Force Oath

UPDATE: August 6, 2013 – Following an AHLC letter to Maxwell AFB in Alabama, Air Force officials have agreed to administer a secular oath and to allow a revision removing "so help me God" of the written oath an officer trainee was required to sign.

Naval Academy Refuses Use of Chapel for Non-Christian Weddings

July 30, 2013 – The AHLC asks the U.S. Naval Academy to reverse a decision to deny a request from a recent graduate to hold his planned humanist wedding in the academy's chapel.

Federal Judge Grants American Humanist Association Motion to Stop Lake Elsinore Religious War Memorial

July 16, 2013 – As part of an AHLC lawsuit, a federal judge has blocked the City of Lake Elsinore, CA, from erecting on public property a monument depicting a soldier kneeling in prayer before a Christian cross.

Secular Recovery Programs to Be Approved by Massachusetts Medical Officials

July 1, 2013 – The AHLC has received confirmation that MA medical officials will clarify language making it clear that secular addiction treatment programs are available to health professionals under scrutiny.

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




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

Join CFI's Humanist book club, a monthly discussion. Contact [David Vangsness](#) for details. CLICK here for [National Events](#) To become part of our important work; to make a difference, become a [Member](#). Please consider becoming part of the CFI Network. For more information, email: grassroots@centerforinquiry.net.



Ban on "Pulpit Politicking" Protects Taxpayers, Religious Believers

Rick O'Keefe

Michael De Dora, August 14, 2013

Religious leaders today released a report that calls for an end to the Internal Revenue Service policy that bans tax-exempt organizations, such as houses of worship and nonprofit groups, from engaging in partisan political activities (news coverage [here](#) and [here](#)).

The [94-page report](#) argues that the ban, which was [enacted in 1954](#), restricts the freedom of speech of religious leaders who consider religious and political expression inextricably tied, and that clergy should be able to say "whatever they believe is appropriate" without any fear of punishment.

The report was prepared by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability's (ECFA) [Commission on Accountability and Policy for Religious Organizations](#), and represents the views held by the leaders of dozens of major religious denominations and nonprofit organizations. It was delivered to Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), who has worked in concert with the ECFA on this issue for years.

But, despite claims made by authors of the report, the ban on partisan political activities by tax-exempt organizations is based on sound reasoning.

First, the ban protects taxpayers from essentially allowing partisan political advocacy on their dime. Opponents of the ban claim that it unfairly restricts houses of worship and nonprofits from addressing elections and political issues. It should be noted that the ban does not bar leaders of tax-exempt outfits from speaking about what their religion purports to be true, or how religious beliefs and values relate to hot-button political issues. It simply bars them from taking explicit stands on political parties and candidates.

But, more to the point: houses of worship and nonprofits are not forced to apply for, or receive, tax-exempt status. They choose to do so because of the benefits provided by such a classification. In return, the government requires these groups to not engage in partisan politicking. This prevents groups from receiving tax breaks, then turning around and using the money saved to influence political elections.

Second, the ban protects religious believers from having their houses of religious worship turn into houses of political worship. Opponents of the ban claim that clergy should be able to endorse or oppose political parties and candidates. But houses of worship are centered on spiritual teaching, support, and guidance -- not outright partisan political promotion. The ban allows religious believers to choose between and belong to congregations without fearing that they will not fit in due to their political affiliation or support for political candidates.

For instance, read what some religious leaders are saying:

"My concern is what that kind of change would make to the integrity and the unity of the church itself," said Rev. C. Welton Gaddy, president of The Interfaith Alliance. "It's about the sanctity of the religious voice in the context of worship and to compromise that authority would be devastating to religion in America."

Or, as [expressed](#) by Rev. Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State: "Americans ... attend houses of worship for spiritual solace, not partisan preaching."

As it turns out, most Americans agree: [numerous surveys](#) have found that roughly two-thirds of Americans believe houses of worship should not endorse political candidates or parties.

The real problem with the IRS ban is not the ban itself, which most Americans believe is a good policy, for good reasons. The real problem is that the IRS does not enforce the ban. You might recall that in December 2012, the Center for Inquiry and American Humanist Association [sent a letter](#) to the IRS voicing shared concerns and disappointment regarding the agency's lack of action against churches which are blatantly violating laws that prohibit 501(c)(3) organizations from endorsing political candidates and parties.

Incredibly, those who oppose the ban actually uses this as an argument against the ban. If the IRS cannot consistently and coherently enforce the ban, they ask, why have it?

Because the ban protects American taxpayers and religious believers. That's why.

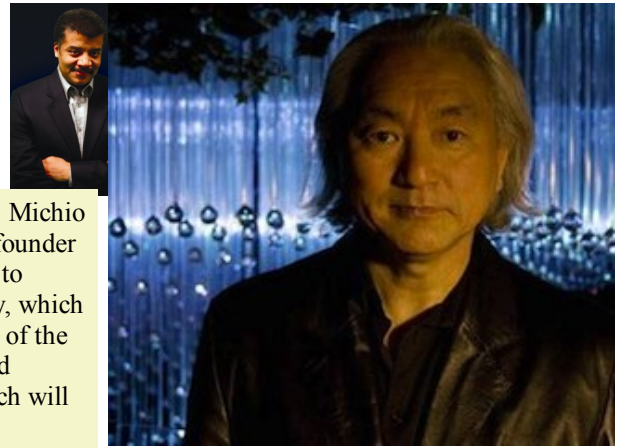
The IRS politicking ban doesn't need to go. The IRS politicking ban needs to be enforced.

Update: Over at [The Friendly Atheist](#), Hemant Mehta has linked to several commentaries on this policy, including both this one and [a particularly good article](#) by Yale Law professor Adam Cohen.

Michael De Dora is director of CFI's Office of Policy and the organization's representative to the U.N. Michael has an M.A. in political theory from Brooklyn College, and a B.A. in Rhetoric and Communication from the University at Albany. He also blogs at: www.themoralperspective.com

Coming to Orlando in September...

Neil deGrasse Tyson has had to Cancel In his place however, is... Michio Kaku



Internationally recognized scientist Dr. Michio Kaku is a theoretical physicist and co-founder of string field theory. He is attempting to complete Einstein's unified field theory, which would summarize all the physical laws of the universe. Dr. Kaku is also a futurist and examines how current scientific research will affect our daily lives.

September 12, 2013 7:30PM
Warden Arena, Alford Center
Rollins College in Winter Park, FL

WPI Events are free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations required.



- Find these words:**
- Harris
 - Aristotle
 - Hero
 - Atheist
 - Hitchens
 - Bright
 - Humanist
 - Critical
 - Hypatia
 - Culture
 - Kurtz
 - Darwin
 - Plato
 - Dawkins
 - Realist
 - Dennett
 - Sagan
 - Education
 - Scientist
 - Einstein
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 - Ethical
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Circle all 25 words in the puzzler, and win one of your choice* of restaurant \$10 discount cards.

Only one to a customer.

Present completed puzzler, and get your card at any Suncoast Humanist meeting til 12-5-13

* Choose from among 30 different local restaurants.

PUZZLER

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

Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html> **Doc (Dave Dockery)** President, Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org **We repair our members computers!**

What is Tampa Bay Skeptics?

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

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

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



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

Practical Freethought

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

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

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

Those nonbelievers who are not ready, or who are unable, to “come out” can take comfort in knowing that they are not

the only ones who accept the reality of a 100% natural world.

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

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

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

R.O.

Holidays of Special Interest

- 2013 International Year of [Water Cooperation](#) (UN)

September is Classical Music Month

- 2nd Labor Day & [National Beheading Day](#)
- 4th. [Fight Procrastination Day](#) *
- 6th. [Read a Book Day](#)
- 13th [Defy Superstition Day](#)
- 15th [National Women's Friendship Day](#)
- 28th [Ask a Stupid Question Day](#)

* Or whenever you can get around to it.



TBCoR Leadership Team 2013

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

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Be Included!

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