

Freethought News

Vol. 9 No. 6, June 2020
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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* TBCoR member	

What's Happening. Click on line below for item... more inside.

CHS senior draws statewide attention to child marriage – Coeur d'Alene Press
 Trump Goes To Church – For A Few Minutes And A Photo Op
 Statement from American Atheists President on Nationwide Protests
 Justice and healing needed to halt America's poisonous racism
 Ayaan Hirsi Ali to Speak Virtually on June 18
 'Hallelujah!' Supreme Court rejects church challenge to shutdown
 Get Ready For Americans United's Summer Series!
 Falwell's Latest Outburst Underscores The Moral Imperative Of Religious Freedom
 Nonreligious Parents Settle Lawsuit Against Volunteer Mentor and Evangelical Church over
 Forced Baptism of Special Needs Son
 Baptist Theologian Provides Welcome Reminder On The Limits Of Religious Freedom

Across the country, people are expressing pain and anger from generations of systemic racism.

The murders of George Floyd in Minnesota, Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, and countless others are horrific. Their lives mattered. Black lives matter.

Secular people of all stripes are profoundly concerned with the quality of life for all people. The persistence of endemic racist bigotry in the minds and institutions of our society are a cause that should occupy the attention of all of us.

It shall be the subject of many discussions and activities in times to come.

Ryan Cragun Speaks...



Dr. Ryan Cragun - On the Origin and Evolution of Religion.

Atheists of Florida Inc. (page 6)
Sunday, June 7, 2020
5:00 PM ET

Online event - RSVP on the AoF Meetup

Dates of Significance:
 June 19: Juneteenth
 June 21: World Humanist Day
 June 20-23: Summer Solstice

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason
 Web site– Jim Peterson
 Editors– Jim Peterson & Rick O'Keefe

Back & current issues online at:
<http://www.tampabaycor.net>

Special Projects– Mark Brandt & Bill Norsworthy
 See our event websites at:
<http://bit.ly/2vUJoE1>

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the editors, TBCoR, or its member organizations.

Anywhere in this newsletter, CLICK on an image or blue text for a link.



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

Pandemic, Mass unemployment, Anti racist protest, Economy ruined, Looming environmental catastrophe, Intentionally compromised elections, Police violence, International tensions, Religious wars....

Surely there must be something to talk about?

If you have an idea, let me know of the speaker or program that you believe to be a rewarding experience. Contact me at: jim@suncoasthumanist.com



Rachel Deitch
Policy and Social Justice Manager at the Center for FreeThought Equality and the American Humanist Association



Ron Miller
Political and PAC Coordinator at the Center for FreeThought Equality

SPEAKING OF
humanism

Increasing
the Political Clout
of the Atheist
and Humanist
Community

Thursday, June 11 | 6:30pm ET
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91843782348>



Vol. XXXIII No. 6 June, 2020



The Humanist Society has maintained an enlightened presence on the Florida Suncoast sine 1987.

Please Join or renew
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Annual Dues

- Regular -\$25
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin above)
- Life -\$200. (Pin)
- Life Couple -\$250 (Pins)
- Associate -\$10



Your membership helps keep Humanism alive & growing in the Tampa Bay area. A small part of your dues allows us to participate fully as a member organization of the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason & enables us to support larger & more exciting programs.

If you have questions concerning your dues or status, contact our treasurer,
Scott Wilson scott33761@yahoo.com

If new, please give info below; if renewing just indicate your name & any changes from our previous information. Thanks!

Name: Address –if new : City, State, Zip
Phone:E-mail: (Privacy respected)

Send check made out to:
“Scott Wilson”

Memo line: “Humanist Society Dues”
(501c3, tax deductible)

Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
6814 Charlotte Harbor Way
Tampa FL 33625

Jerry Moore; a Life lived Fully



Jerry, who died peacefully on May 22nd at 92 will be remembered and celebrated at a **special ‘Zoom’ life Celebration on Sunday, June 21st at 1 PM.**

A special link is available on the TB-CoR, Humanist, and Florida Atheist **Meet-up** sites.

Join us to share the humor, wisdom, and many good works of our recent vice president.
Sign the Memory Book [Here](#).

Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism or other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good.



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

What is the Humanist Way?

- ◆ **To extend** a human centered approach to the critical problems of life & society.
- ◆ **To encourage** attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance & a loving generosity in human relationships, & in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others, & encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture & experience.
- ◆ **To develop** & popularize the skills of creative & critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition & irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.
- ◆ **To exalt** those artistic & imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure & enlightenment, & which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, & other expressions, we embrace the essence of what it means to be human.
- ◆ **To explore** the grounds of ethics & 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's monthly social Dinner

Join us June. 19th at Applebee's at 5 O'clock for American style cuisine, and decidedly the best company:

Cancelled!
Applebees

For [map](#) [Menu](#)

5110 E Bay Dr Clearwater, FL 33764

Kindly **RSVP** to: (727) 581-2146
Great Conversation and good food, reasonably priced.

Wry Eye with a View

There's a story about a couple of fellows from the US Midwest who were travelling through Texas and stopped for lunch in a small town on US-84. As they were entering the town, they noted the sign announcing the name of the city: Mexia. They parked the car and as they got out, the driver said, "So this is Mexia," which he pronounced MEKS-ee-uh.

His buddy, who had been reading the maps and guidebooks said, "Actually, I believe the name is Hispanic, and the locals pronounce it as such. They call it Mexia," pronouncing it muh-HAY-uh.

"Well, that's just ridiculous," said the first guy. "How do you get an A in the middle syllable? It'd have to be an E if it's a Mexican-pronounced I in there. I'd buy it if you told me it was pronounced MAY-hee-uh, maybe."

By this time, they were inside the luncheonette, with crowds of people standing about, so the second guy says, "Okay, smart guy, let's just ask a someone who knows." He turns to an older fellow standing nearby and says, "Pardon me, sir, but my buddy and I are from out of town, and we've been disagreeing about something. I wonder if you could do me a favor and say very clearly and distinctly the name of this place?"

The old fellow smiles, nods, and very slowly says, "DARE-ee Kween."

~short but not too sweet.~

- Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!"
Patient: "I am 60!"
Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?"
- Patient: "I have a ringing in my ears."
Doctor: "Don't answer!"
- A drunk was in front of a judge. The judge says, "You've been brought here for drinking."
The drunk says "Okay, let's get started."

These words of sanguinary rectitude brought to you by Rick Okeefe.

Humanist Society of the Suncoast

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc., Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason, & The Association of Secular Humanist Societies

Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

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~*~*~*~*~*~

Jim Peterson, Editor
E-Mail us at:
jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,
click:
[Secular Therapy Org.](#)
[Cognitive Neurosciences](#)

Or call:

Lynda Gurvitz,
<http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/>
(727) 725-8820

Or, Joel Schmidt
www.floatoncounseling.com
321-604-7637





A Virtual Celebration of Humanism
American Humanist Association 2020 Conference

More than ever in our lifetimes, we need humanism.

On Saturday, August 8th, the AHA will host a day-long virtual conference, *Distant but Together: A Virtual Celebration of Humanism*. The **FREE event will bring together humanists across the country to engage with terrific speakers who will explore the values and principles that undergird our community.**

[Register Now](#)

Join us from the comfort—and safety—of your own home as we bring you exciting sessions and awards presentations.

We are pleased to announce that Congressman Jared Huffman (CA-2) will accept our Humanist of the Year Award! Rep. Huffman is the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Freethought Caucus and a four-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He is the only member of Congress to openly identify himself as a humanist and an agnostic.

These, along with other vibrant speakers, will present on topics including:

- The current status of the battle for separation of church and state
 - Racial and economic equity in the age of COVID-19
 - Is atheism still a political taboo?
 - Growing secular communities
 - The importance of difficult conversations
- And much, much more!

World Humanist Congress 2020 News

On the advice and information from the World Health Organization (WHO), and government agencies regarding public health guidelines and travel advisories, **we must regrettably cancel the Congress. But see the virtual celebration we are holding instead. It's free. Details on the rest of this page.**

Contact AHA to obtain a refund if you have already made reservations.

Hotel rooms that you have already reserved at the Hyatt Regency Miami may be cancelled up to 48 hours prior to scheduled check-in without penalty. (Accommodations you may have reserved elsewhere are subject to the cancellation rules you agreed to at the time of reservation.)

Our growing list of Celebration speakers includes:



Hemant Mehta
The editor of *Friendly Atheist*



Rachel Laser
President and CEO of
Americans United for the
Separation of Church and State



Anjan Chakravartty
Philosopher and Appignani
Foundation Chair of the Center
for Atheism, Humanism and
Secular Ethics



Krista Cox
Essayist, poet, and Chair of
the Leadership Council for
the Feminist Humanist
Alliance

The event will also feature other prominent awardees and an update on the State of Humanism. **[Sign up now to get more information](#)** on how to be *Distant but Together*.

August 8, 2020 | [American Humanist Association](#)
1821 Jefferson Place NW, Washington, DC 20036 |
(800) 837-3792 |
conference@americanhumanist.org

Click here



An autonomous project of the Humanist Society.
Affiliate of the [Post Carbon Institute](#)

Last month a group of academics working in the fields of development and environmental sciences in the Netherlands wrote a manifesto for post-corona recovery based on degrowth principles. This initiative gained widespread attention, pushing the degrowth agenda into (Dutch) mainstream consciousness and the traditional corridors of power.

Planning for Post-Corona: Five proposals to craft a more sustainable and equal world

COVID-19 has shaken the world. It has already led to the loss or devastation of countless lives, while many people in vital professions are working day and night to attend to the sick and stop further spread. Personal and social losses, and the fight to stop these, demand our continued respect and support. At the same time, it is critical to view this pandemic in historical context in order to avoid repeating past mistakes when we plan for the future.

The fact that COVID-19 has already had such a major economic impact is due, amongst other factors, to the economic development model that has been dominant globally over the last 30 years. This model demands ever-growing circulation of goods and people, despite the countless ecological problems and growing inequalities it generates. Over the last few weeks, the weaknesses of the neoliberal growth machine have been painfully exposed. Amongst other issues we have seen: large companies pleading for immediate state support once effective demand falls away for even a short time; insecure jobs being lost or put on hold; and further strain placed on already underfunded healthcare systems. People who recently confronted the government in their struggles for recognition and decent salaries are now, remarkably, considered to have 'vital professions' in healthcare, elderly care, public transport and education.

A further weakness of the current system, and one that is not yet prominent in discussions of the pandemic, is the link between economic development, the loss of biodiversity and important ecosystem functions, and the opportunity for diseases like COVID-19 to spread among humans. These are lethal links and could become much more so. The WHO has already estimated that, globally, [4.2 million people die each year from outdoor air pollution](#), and that the impacts of climate change are expected to cause [250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050](#). Experts warn that with further severe degradation of ecosystems – a scenario that is to be expected under the current economic model –

chances for further and even stronger virus outbreaks on top of these unfolding catastrophes are realistic.

All this requires drastic and integrated action and makes it critical to start planning for a post-COVID-19 world as soon as possible. While some short-term positive social and environmental impacts have emerged in the crisis—such as community support, local organizing and solidarity, less pollution and GHG emissions—these changes will be temporary and marginalized without concerted efforts for broader political and economic change. It is therefore necessary to envision how this current situation could lead to a more sustainable, fair, equitable, healthy, and resilient form of (economic) development going forward.

This brief manifesto signed by 174 Netherlands-based scholars aims to summarize what we know to be critical and successful policy strategies for moving forward during and after the crisis.

We propose five key policy proposals for a post-COVID-19 development model, all of which can be implemented immediately and sustained after this particular crisis has subsided:

1. A move away from development focused on aggregate GDP growth to differentiate among sectors that can grow and need investment (the so-called critical public sectors, and clean energy, education, health and more) and sectors that need to radically degrow due to their fundamental unsustainability or their role in driving continuous and excessive consumption (especially private sector oil, gas, mining, advertising, and so forth);

2. An economic framework focused on redistribution, which establishes a universal basic income rooted in a universal social policy system, a strong progressive taxation of income, profits and wealth, reduced working hours and job sharing, and recognizes care work and essential public services such as health and education for their intrinsic value;

3. Agricultural transformation towards regenerative agriculture based on biodiversity conservation, sustainable and mostly local and vegetarian food production, as well as fair agricultural employment conditions and wages;

4. Reduction of consumption and travel, with a drastic shift from luxury and wasteful consumption and travel to basic, necessary, sustainable and satisfying consumption and travel;

5. Debt cancellation, especially for workers and small business owners and for countries in the global south (both from richer countries and international financial institutions).

As academics, we are convinced that this policy vision will lead to more sustainable, equal and diverse societies based on international solidarity, and ones that can better prevent and deal with shocks and pandemics to come. For us the question is no longer whether we need to start implementing these strategies, but how we go about it. As we acknowledge those groups hardest hit by this particular crisis in the Netherlands and beyond, we can do justice to them by being proactive in ensuring that a future crisis will be much less severe, cause much less suffering or not happen at all. Together with many other communities, in the Netherlands and globally, we believe the time is right for such a positive and meaningful vision going forward. We urge politicians, policy-makers and the general public to start organizing for their implementation sooner rather than later.



Atheists of Florida

Inc.



For our Atheists helping the Homeless project -

For all in-person meetings: bring, if you can, small bars of unused soap, small bottles of shampoo, heavy duty unused socks, any kind of personal care items, or money (for bulk purchase of these items).

Ed Golly, Chair - Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir.
See **AoF Meetup** for details Website: <http://aof.ngo>

AoF is a comfortable & safe place in which to; find rewarding new friendships, discover hidden potentials, & 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. For many people, atheism represents the most focused & powerful criticism of the philosophical world-view 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 & changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP



Subscribe to our
YouTube Channel

The broadcast is on hiatus for now. Previous programs are available **on the internet** www.youtube.com/atheistforum . Now, tune in to VoR See [page 13!](#)



Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org

Atheist
COMMUNITY
of Polk County

The Atheist Community of Polk County, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) Florida non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting the separation of church and state and promoting a positive atheist community.

We are a growing community of atheists, freethinkers, skeptics and humanists organizing in Polk County, Florida to network, socialize, work in the community, provide educational speakers and more. We are making efforts to expand our programming, with emphasis on scheduling events in various places around the county, at different days/times, etc. so more people can find something to enjoy that's convenient.

June Events

[Details—click here](#)

meetup

“Someday”
he said,
wistfully.

June
Register for
our on-line
meet below.

You should join our **new online real-time meeting**: Stay tuned for more details. Register at: <https://www.free2think.org/>

Always Vigilant

Public school prayer events are generally billed as being student-organized in order to *appear* constitutional.

But in reality, school staff are often actively involved, even to the extent that they're the ones organizing the event.

To stop this unconstitutional Christian proselytizing, someone needs to expose the adult organizers. That's where we come in!

Let us know of any church-state violation you may run across - restrictions, prayers, bible readings, etc. We'll take it from there. Thanks, www.aof.ngo

Be sure to come by AoF's regular
Sunday night Zoom sessions starting at
5:00 PM.

For linking information, see our notice on the Coalition of Reason Meetup page, or go to our website; www.aof.ngo. We will not be undone by a virus.

Dr. Ryan Cragun - On the Origin and Evolution of Religion.

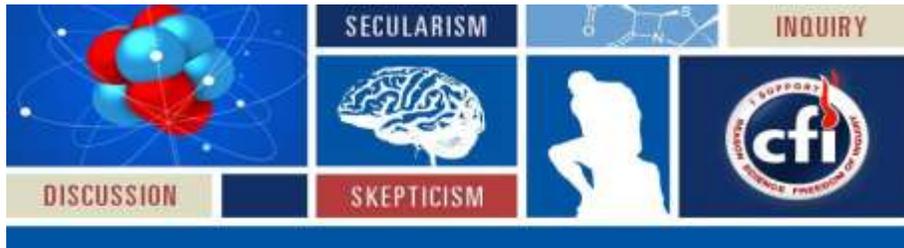
Atheists of Florida Inc.

Sunday, June 7, 2020

5:00 PM ET

Online event - RSVP to our Meetup





Incorporated in Florida on October 3, 2002. Only with *your support* can we succeed.



'Plandemic' Asks Questions—But Won't Answer Them

By [Benjamin Radford](#), [A Skeptic Reads the Newspaper](#), May 21, 2020

[Share](#) [Tweet](#)

Earlier this month, a YouTube video for an (apparently) upcoming documentary titled *Plandemic* was released by Mikki Willis (credited onscreen as “father/filmmaker” [*sic*]). The video features a lengthy interview with virologist Judy Mikovits, who offers scattershot conspiracy-laden assertions about the “truth” behind the COVID-19 pandemic, prefaced by claims of having been framed for a crime (she was charged with theft in 2011) and accusations of government coverups going back decades involving various medical authorities, including Dr. Anthony Fauci. Willis’s voiceover gravely warns that “for exposing their deadly secrets, the minions of Big Pharma have waged war on Dr. Mikovits,” who in the film (and in her new best-selling book the video promotes) bravely reveals “the plague of corruption that places all human life in danger.”

Dozens of claims are made in the twenty-six-minute video, some of which are unverifiable—as conspiracy theories tend to be. But many statements made by Mikovits have been investigated and proven to be misleading or simply false.

Among its claims, the video suggests that a vaccine for the virus (which of course hasn’t been developed) will be mandatory; however, no one is forced to get medical treatment. If and when a vaccine is available, federal agents armed with automatic weapons in one hand and a syringe in the other aren’t going to be bursting through doors to forcibly vaccinate anyone—paranoid conspiracy fantasies to the contrary.

It’s now been several weeks since the video was widely

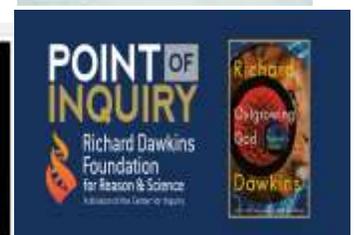
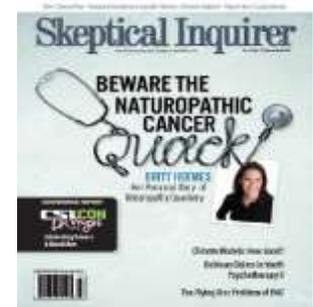
shared on social media, and questions have been raised by reputable journalists for publications including [The Washington Post](#) and [The Atlantic](#), as well as [Politifact](#). For an expert and filmmaker who claim to have been censored and silenced (with social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube removing the video for containing dangerous misinformation), Mikovits and Willis have been strangely silent about answering legitimate questions raised about their claims.

In an effort to clarify the matter, the Center for Inquiry reviewed the video and, in collaboration with researcher Dr. Paul Offit, composed a list of eight simple questions about claims made in the video. CFI contacted Mr. Willis, who agreed in writing to respond to our questions. The next day he was provided the questions below, thanked for his cooperation, and asked to reply.

1) The *Plandemic* video claims that face masks “activate” coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2; what scientific evidence do you have that the virus is more infectious for individuals wearing masks than for those not wearing masks?

2) The video promotes hydroxychloroquine as effective against the virus (despite elevated cardiac risks and several placebo-controlled studies finding no efficacy at all). Instead of being ignored or suppressed by the medical establishment, controlled clinical trials of the drug *have* been performed. What is the “thousands of pages of data” answers as agreed to.

Read the full article here: <https://bit.ly/2ztMS1Z>





The **Center for Inquiry (CFI)** leads the charge on promoting science, reason, critical thinking, and humanist values.

The 'Best Arguments for God's Existence' Are Actually Terrible

By **Jerry A. Coyne**, *The New Republic*, January 17, 2014, <https://bit.ly/2TkwcRj>

The most common critique leveled at New Atheists is that we attack only puerile, fundamentalist forms of religion, and never engage with the “best” arguments of the faithful: those adumbrated by Sophisticated Theologians™. Never mind that most believers accept a view of God far more anthropomorphic than a simple “ground of being” or a deistic entity that made the world and then refused to engage with it further. If you want data to support this, at least for U.S. Christians, go [here](#). Polls consistently show that around 70-80% of Americans believe in the existence of Heaven, Hell, Satan, and angels. And let’s not even discuss whether the majority of Muslims think of Allah as a “ground of being” rather than as a disembodied ruler who tells them how to behave. Anyone who claims that regular monotheists view God like Karen Armstrong’s Apophatic Entity or Tillich’s Ground of Being simply hasn’t gotten out enough.

Further, it’s obvious that the bulk of harm committed in the name of religion is done by those not who see god as a Ground of Being, but rather as an anthropomorphic entity who has a personal relationship with his minions and supplies them with a moral system. For it is the belief that God has wishes for humanity, and a code of right and wrong, that drives people to do things like oppose abortion and stem cell research, deny rights to women and gays, burn “witches,” throw acid in the faces of schoolgirls, and torture Catholics with guilt about masturbation and divorce.

The vast majority of believers don’t even *read* theology, and are barely aware of the arguments for God made by Sophisticated Theologians™. So is it our duty as atheists to refute those arcane theological arguments, or to prevent instead the harm done by religion? To me, the latter course is preferable. Still it’s both fun and intellectually profitable to read and refute the arguments of theologians, for it’s only there that one can truly see intelligence so blatantly coopted and corrupted to prove what one has decided beforehand must be true. Theology is the only academic discipline where people get paid not to investigate their beliefs, but to rationalize them. Certainly it’s more *useful* for atheists to point out to “average” believers the lack of evidence for their faith—and that is precisely what Dawkins did in *The God Delusion*—but it’s more *fun* to chase the tails of obscurantists like Alvin Plantinga and John Haught.

Read the rest here: <https://bit.ly/2TkwcRj>

CFI’s vision is a world in which evidence, science, and compassion—rather than superstition, pseudoscience, or prejudice—guide **public policy**.

Online with CFI

Sat. June 13th , 5 PM EDT

Food For Thought: Keeping the Web Wolves at Bay

With more folks working, shopping & entertaining from home via the internet due to the pandemic, the wolves are upping their attacks. We’ll discuss ways for users to protect their privacy and assets while making greater use of the web.

Please join using this link:

<https://v.ringcentral.com/join/524421425>

Meeting ID: 524421425

Saturday, June 27, 2020 12 PM EDT

OnLine - Center for Inquiry's Local SHARE Book Club (Book must have been read before the meeting!)

“The Power Worshipers: Inside the Dangerous Rise Religious Nationalism” by Katherine Stewart

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/48999196-the-power-worshippers>

Zoom - <https://galen.zoom.us/j/2718843306>

June 28, 6:30 PM EDT

The Independent Investigation Group (<http://www.iigwest.com/>)

was founded by Jim Underdown in Los Angeles about 10 years ago. We have formed an affiliate in the Bay area (<http://iigsfba.org>). The group administers a \$100,000 challenge similar to Randi's million dollar challenge and backed by the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry.

It meets regularly in the afternoon of the 4th Sunday of every month. There is a google group for internal discussion where details of time an place are announce. If you would like to join the google group your can go to <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/iig-sf> and apply for membership or send email to jerry at acm.org

You are urged to check out the websites linked to above before attending a meeting.

Tuesday, June 30, 6:00 PM EDT

CFI Austin Online Book Discussion: **The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life** by David Quammen - Simon & Schuster (2018)

In *The Tangled Tree*, celebrated science writer David Quammen tells perhaps the grandest tale in biology: how scientists used gene sequencing to elucidate the evolutionary relationships between living beings. Charles Darwin called it the ‘great Tree of Life’. But as Quammen reveals, at the molecular level, life’s history is more accurately depicted as a network, a tangled web through which organisms have been exchanging genes for more than 3 billion years. This perspective is indeed radical, and he presents the science — and the scientists involved — with patience, candour and flair.

Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83639427534?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83639427534?pwd=Z3ZhTThHUUVViTXBsWjdGOTRzNW54QT09)

[pwd=Z3ZhTThHUUVViTXBsWjdGOTRzNW54QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83639427534?pwd=Z3ZhTThHUUVViTXBsWjdGOTRzNW54QT09)

Meeting ID: 836 3942 7534

Password: 195260The Tangled Tree



Founded in 1988 by [Gary P. Posner, M.D.](#), [Tampa Bay Skeptics](#) is a nonprofit educational & scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of paranormal & fringe-science claims, & the dissemination of factual information about such claims. [Read More!](#)



What Is Pseudoscience?

By Mario Bunge, *Skeptical Inquirer*, Vol. 09, #1, Fall 1984

"[Pseudoscience](#) can be clearly distinguished from science only if a number of features are checked."

Editor Kendrick Frazier writes in the January /February issue, "[this article] is another seminal essay that listed and described several attitudes and activities by which to compare scientists and pseudoscientists. It provoked some controversy but still stands up well."

The Philosophy Behind Pseudoscience

By Mario Bunge

From: *Skeptical Inquirer*, Vol. 30, #4, July / August 2006

"Every intellectual endeavor, whether authentic or bogus, has an [underlying philosophy](#). Science, for example, involves six kinds of philosophical ideas. These differ totally from those behind pseudoscience. Evaluating a field's underlying philosophy is a revealing way to make distinctions and judge worth."

In this powerful exposition of the orthogonal difference between science and pseudoscience. Editor Kendrick Frazier wrote, "In my view, 'it provides a comprehensive, explanatory, intellectual, philosophical framework for virtually every issue we address in the *Skeptical Inquirer*.'"

Food for Thought on BBC Shropshire Radio can be heard by going to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08b54q8> and listening on the timeline between 1:19:30 and 1:23:00.

"Don't worry I'm not going to talk lockdown, but my subject was prompted by some of the extraordinary things we hear coming out of the mouth of the current President of United States. It's pretty clear that he doesn't trust science or scientists or evidence or reason; he prefers to rely on his gut instinct, making it up as he goes along and listening to like-minded anti-science friends.

"It got me thinking. Why are so many people against

science and scientists? It's hard to believe but there are international societies claiming the world is flat and that, if you walk far enough, you fall off the edge! And over 40% of the United States are young earth creationists and believe that the world, the universe, was created much as it is now about 8,000 years ago. And then there's climate change. Despite a vast amount of high-level evidence that the world is warming up due to human activity, there're many, including Trump and some UK politicians, who deny it...."

Smithsonian

April 22 was to have been the **national March for Science** (in Washington, D.C.) in support of the idea that, "The whole point of science is that evidence should win over everything, regardless of the opinions you walked in the door with." "American scientists now find themselves in a strange new world of denial, fake news and alternative facts."

Should scientists march for science?

Pros: <https://n.pr/3caVBEa>

NPR: "We have often discussed how, after World War II, politicians of all parties understood that science was vital to the national good. Science provided input on policy decisions — and that was as far as it should go. If you, as a politician, didn't like that input, you could talk values or economics or any of the many other non-science things that went into policy-making. What you did not do, however, was call the science a hoax. You didn't do that because it would, eventually, undermine the whole scientific enterprise that the nation needs so badly."

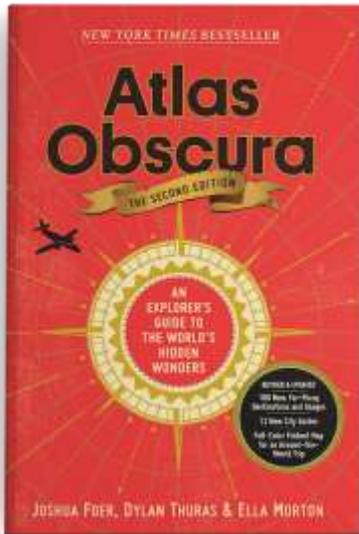
Cons: <https://bit.ly/2W6XZpU>

New Republic: Famed scientist and civil rights protester Jerry Coyne says no. "To be fair, the March for Science isn't supposed to address issues of morality. "The March for Science is a celebration of science," according to organizers. "It's not about scientists or politicians; it is about the very real role that science plays in each of our lives and the need to respect and encourage research that gives us insight into the world...The March for Science champions and defends science and scientific integrity."

skeptic (n): a person who searches for truth through questioning and reasoning

Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info



Inspiring equal parts wonder and wanderlust, *Atlas Obscura* is a phenomenon of a travel book that shot to the top of bestseller lists when it was first published and changed the way we think about the world, expanding our sense of how strange and marvelous it really is. This second edition takes readers to even more curious and unusual destinations, with more than 100 new places, dozens and dozens of new photographs, and two very special features: twelve city guides, covering Berlin, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Cairo, London, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Moscow, New York City, Paris, Shanghai, and Tokyo. Plus a foldout map with a dream itinerary for the ultimate around-the-world road trip. More a cabinet of curiosities than traditional guidebook, *Atlas Obscura* revels in the unexpected, the overlooked, the bizarre, and the mysterious. Here are natural wonders, like the dazzling glowworm caves in New Zealand, or a baobab tree in South Africa so large it has a pub inside

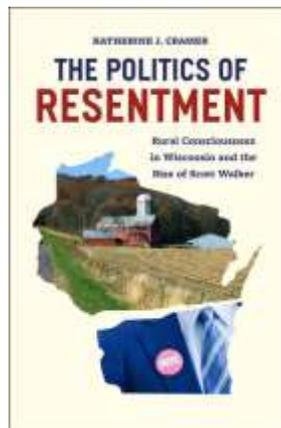
....

Since the election of Scott Walker, Wisconsin has been seen as ground zero for debates about the appropriate role of government in the wake of the Great Recession. In a time of rising inequality, Walker not only survived a bitterly contested recall that brought thousands of protesters to Capitol Square, he was subsequently reelected. How could this happen? How is it that the very people who stand to benefit from strong government services not only vote against the candidates who support those services but are vehemently against the very idea of big government?

With *The Politics of Resentment*, Katherine J. Cramer uncovers an oft-overlooked piece of the puzzle: rural political consciousness and the resentment of the "liberal elite." Rural voters are distrustful that politicians will respect the distinct values of their communities and allocate a fair share of resources. What can look like disagreements about basic political principles are therefore actually rooted in something even more fundamental: who we are as people and how closely a candidate's social identity matches our own. Using Scott Walker and Wisconsin's prominent and protracted debate about the appropriate role of government, Cramer illuminates the contours of rural consciousness, showing how place-based identities profoundly influence how people understand politics, regardless of whether urban politicians and their supporters really do shortchange or look down on those living in the country.

The Politics of Resentment shows that rural resentment—no less than partisanship, race, or class—plays a major role in dividing America against itself.

See more books on the back page.



The Matt Cooper

Humanist Lending Library

Humanist Society members can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, at any meeting.

Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated. **Brad Perryman** is our new librarian.



TITLE AUTHOR

1. The Expanding Circle Peter Singer
2. In Gods we Trust Scott Atran
3. Why Evolution is True Jerry Coyne
4. The Second World Panag Khanna
5. Denialism Michael Specter
6. The Selfish Gene Richard Dawkins
7. Democracy Incorporated Sheldon Wolin
8. The Upside Irrationality Dan Ariely
9. The End of Growth Richard Heinberg
10. The God Delusion Richard Dawkins
11. All That We Share Jay Wallgasper
12. Sex, Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14. What liberal Media Eric Alderman
15. The End of Faith Sam Harris
16. Plan B Lester Brown
17. The Portable Atheist Christopher Hitchens
18. Open Society George Soros
19. Non Believer Nation David Niose
20. God on Trial Peter Irons
21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond-Robinson
22. The Missionary Position Christopher Hitchens
23. Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff
24. A brief History of Time Stephen Hawking
25. Breaking the Spell Daniel Dennett
26. The Philosophy of Humanism Corliss Lamont
27. The Quotable Atheist Jack Huberman
28. 50 Reasons People Believe In G.G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics Alan Taylor
30. Stealing Elections John Fund
31. The God Virus Darrel Ray
32. What Every American Should Know About World Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven Editors of Free Inquiry
34. Hidden Order David Friedman
35. What the Dog Saw Malcom Gladwell
36. Sway Ori, Rom Brafman
37. The Better Angels of our Nature Steven Pinker
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian Christopher Hitchens
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded Thomas Friedman
40. Gaming the Vote William Poundstone
41. Subversion Fable Alexa Kckearing
43. Evolution and the Big Question David Stamos
44. Why People Believe Weird Things Michael Shermer
45. The World is Curved David Snick
46. The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
47. The Moral Landscape Sam Harris
48. How We Believe Michael Shermer
49. Full House Steven Jay Gould
50. The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain Harriet Smith, Editor
53. Science Friction Michael Shermer
54. Genius James Gleick
55. Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
56. Demon Haunted World Carl Sagan
57. Being Right Is Not Enough Paul Waldman
58. Loser Takes All Mark Crispin Miller
59. Taking Back Politics Cathy Allen
60. Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
63. 12 Vol Complete Works Robert Ingersoll
64. On Religious Liberty Roger Williams & Davis
65. The God Makers Baker & Hunt
66. Inevitable Illusions M. Piatrelli-Palmarini
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
69. Bonk Mary Roach
70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
73. Best American Non required Reading Dave Eagers
74. Reporting at Wit's End St. Clair McKelway
75. Corporations are not People Clements
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president? Cragun - Phillips
77. Culture of Honor Nisbett - Cohen
78. Rot on the Vine Stenes
79. Thoughts of a Freethinker New Kaye * Essential works
80. An Atheist Stranger by Herb Silverman
81. Candidate without a prayer- Herb Silverman



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Corona Virus from a Freethinkers Perspective

By **Norm R. Allen Jr.**

Paul Kurtz Institute for Science and Human Values



COVID-19 and the fears it has generated have resulted in a tsunami of irrationality, ignorance, paranoia, conspiracy theories and danger. Perhaps the biggest danger is posed by religious fanatics who actually believe they can pray sickness away. They still do not have even a simple understanding of germ theory. They still believe in laying on of (washed or unwashed) hands and driving out evil spirits from the body.

Not only did Jesus supposedly heal the sick, but religionists love to quote Psalm 91, “the prayer of protection.” Verses three and six say that God will protect believers from pestilence. Verse 10 says that God will protect them from “any plague.” (Incidentally, worshippers certainly could have used divine intervention during the Black Death during the 14th Century.)

More responsible religious leaders have been forced to concede the futility of prayer during major health crises. As atheist writer and blogger Hermant Mehta observed, “God is no match for a public health crisis.” (“Faith Healers Had to Postpone an Event Due to the Coronavirus,” patheos.com, 3-17-20. Could a headline get any more ironic than that?)

Nigerian humanist and skeptic Leo Igwe wrote an excellent article for opinionnigeria.com titled “Coronavirus and Reality Check for all Religions” (3-18-20.) He noted that Vatican City is locked down, churches are removing holy water and suspending communion, Mecca and Medina are deserted, the Kaaba, the sacred Muslim shrine at Mecca is closed to worshippers, the Saudi government has banned pilgrimages, worshippers are discouraged from going to Lourdes, Iran has cancelled Friday prayers, and so forth. (Pilgrims have also stopped traveling to Medjugorje in Bosnia.) All of this prompted Igwe to conclude that, not fear of the Lord, but “...the fear of the coronavirus...has become the beginning of wisdom.”

(In another bit of non-stop irony, Iranian-trained Iraqi Shia scholar Hadi Al-Modarresi said coronavirus was a curse from God delivered to the Chinese for their mistreatment of Muslims and disrespect of Islam. However, not only is Iran among the hardest hit by the virus, but Al-Modarresi contracted coronavirus weeks after making his proclamation.)

Sadly, true believers plug on. Jerry Falwell Jr. reopened Liberty University and about 12 students were found to have symptoms of COVID-19. In New York City, the mayor is contending with Orthodox Jews and other religionists that insist upon keeping their houses of worship open. White evangelicals are complaining that shutting down houses of worship due to a major health crisis goes against religious freedom. Catholic Cardinal Raymond Burke says that churches must remain open because they are “essential.” (Again, the Black Death spread like wildfire in churches.) Virginia Pastor Landon Spradlin complained about alleged anti-Trump “mass hysteria” surrounding coronavirus. He ignored health concerns and traveled to New Orleans for Mardi Gras outreach. He died from COVID-19 in Concord, North Carolina at the age of 66 on Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

There is much religious insanity out there. But what would a pandemic be without paranoid conspiracy theories and lazy, sloppy thinking? At one time, some Blacks were saying that Black people could not get coronavirus. Some said that there is “no coronavirus in the ghetto.” After Black luminaries such as actor Idris Alba and basketball star Kevin Durant contracted the virus, that kind of talk died down.

Congressman Rep. Bobby Rush angrily attacked the CEOs of Facebook and Twitter for allowing this kind of race-based misinformation. In particular, he quoted a tweet from John McAfee, a businessman and computer programmer, who tweeted “Coronavirus cannot attack black people because it is a Chinese virus.” Rush, a democrat from Illinois, said that allowing this kind of misinformation makes social media “COMPLICIT” in any harm that could come to African Americans as a result of it.

Donald Trump, the conspiracy-theorist-in-Chief, originally complained that the alleged hysteria was propagated by Democrats trying to oust him in the next election. (Irony Alert!) Ron Paul, the father of Senator Rand Paul, said that coronavirus is a hoax. A week later, Rand Paul tested positive for it. (Rand Paul was the lone senator to vote against an \$8 billion bill to help fight against coronavirus.)

Some believe that coronavirus is being used as biological warfare. Franciscan Father Quirino Salomone of Italy, an “exorcist,” claimed that COVID-19 is a chemical weapon that the Chinese produced in a lab. People are selling phony coronavirus tests and all kinds of other conspiracy theories are to be found throughout social media.

The bottom line is that human beings must work to eradicate disease. “No God will save us. We must save ourselves.” All throughout history this has been the case. Scientists and medical experts throughout the world must pull together to protect the human species. China and Cuba have already made progress in this regard. And as Ian Bremmer in the April 6-13, 2020 issue of Time points out, “Washington and Beijing could invest cash and scientific expertise in a joint bid to develop treatments and a vaccine.” (“China and America’s blame game over COVID-19 hurts everyone,” p. 25) Indeed, human ingenuity is our greatest and most realistic hope. How could it be otherwise?

- ◆ **Norm R. Allen Jr.** is the editor of two ground-breaking books: *African-American Humanism: An Anthology*, and *The Black Humanist Experience: An Alternative to Religion*. He is currently writing a third book, *Secular, Successful, and Black: 25 Profiles*. For 21 years, Allen had been the first and only full-time African American secular humanist to travel the world promoting secular humanism. He has spoken on numerous radio and television shows including National Public Radio and to 72 humanist groups in 30 African nations. His writings have appeared in numerous books and encyclopedias, including *Voices for Evolution*, published by the National Center for Science Education.



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. We strongly emphasize creative childrearing. You can connect with other families dealing with the same problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly humanist way of life.

Jennifer wrote three books: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, & *The Bully Vaccine*.

Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. Come and do something fun, socialize, enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, a museum, go swimming, & sometimes we leave the kids at home. We organize Tampa & 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, & *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. Please join us on [Facebook](#).

Thanks, *Jennifer Hancock*

The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers (MAAF)

The **MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH)** community was created for atheist & secular humanist military personnel stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, their families, & retired military residing in the Tampa Bay area.

MASH provides a valuable & much needed resource in which you will find common ground to socialize, discuss issues, & draw emotional support from like-minded freethinking members.

Tampa Bay Thinkers

Be part of the conversation on Monday **June 8th** at the Carrolwood Cultural Center, Tampa at **7 PM**.

Topic: **Who and What are the Most Important?**

A Look Back Could Help Us Go Forward.

Learn more [here](#).

We meet monthly to escape shallow, petty talk and to ponder broad, complex yet practical subjects. We expect members to proffer evidence and use logic in conclusions, but expect all present to keep the meeting FUN for all. We teach, and don't scold. We expect the conversation to move without getting stuck so sometimes, we are forced to "agree to disagree" and move on.

We arrive and part as friends. There are no personal attacks, but each IDEA goes under the microscope. Members agree, others disagree, often with enthusiasm! We have no gates, and no gatekeepers. All are welcome and we tolerate no personal attacks, sarcasm, or even indirect denigration. IDEAS RULE and stand on their own. Finally, we are "thinkers", not "doers". Come, join us, participate, learn, exercise your brain, but mostly HAVE FUN.

The Socrates Cafe

A monthly discussion since 2008.

Hosted by **Brent Hardaway**

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/38mye1h>

Join us to discuss "?"



After-talk at The Independent (5016 N. Florida Avenue).

[Postponed] at 3 PM in the Seminole Heights Branch Library, 4711 N Central Ave, Tampa, FL, 33603. Be sure to RSVP [HERE](#) for more information

Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay welcomes all who are interested in Jewish history, culture, and tradition independent of supernatural explanations. We believe human beings are responsible for their own choices and making the world a better place through science and reason. Join us for discussions, lectures, cultural events, and holiday celebrations using a Humanistic lens.

Ethical Humanism, also called Ethical Culture, is an evolving body of ideas that inspires Ethical Societies. Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity (*Humanist Manifesto III*). For Ethical Humanists, the ultimate religious questions are not about the existence of gods or an afterlife, but rather, "How can we create meaningfulness in this life?" and "How should we treat each other?"

The American Ethical Union was founded in 1877 by Felix Adler in New York, and currently has over 30 member societies.

UU St. Pete Thursday Citizens' Café

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

100 Mirror Lake Dr. N., St. Petersburg



UU Humanists of Clearwater

Usually every 3rd Sunday 12:30 to 1:30 pm, after UU services,



UU Humanists of Tampa

Public Discussion, 2nd Thursday eve from 7-9 PM.

11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc. Sarasota, Florida

Next Lecture: Monday,

Speaker:

Topic: **Cancelled for now, but Zoom Meets are on!**

For more details, information, news and activities, see: <https://www.husbay.org/index.htm>



Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: groups that promote serious secular discussion & activity about important issues in our area & beyond.

Substantive & exciting new activities are now offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

Every year we sponsor events such as Darwin Day in February, Solstice day in December, and other activities all year long.

You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected in Tampa Bay & across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God. Millions are!"

TBCoR is an alliance of West Central Florida groups identified with the secular, freethought, Humanist, Atheist

Hear a secular point of view on local radio.

Listen to:

The Voice of Reason

on WTAN Radio Network from Clearwater. Thursdays at 10 AM



The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc.

(SPAC), has been meeting continuously since 1927. It was incorporated in 1979 as a nonprofit, tax deductible organization.

For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members & the public. Questions? send an email to: spaceexaminer@gmail.com.

Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November & December when it is on the third Friday) at the St. Petersburg College/Gibbs Campus, 6605 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710, at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)

M.A.R.S. – Tampa Astronomy Club at MOSI

Come to the [Museum Astronomical Resource Society](#), also known as the M.A.R.S. astronomy club. M.A.R.S. is sponsored by the [Museum of Science & Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League & Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news & astronomical information to our membership & to the public. Whether you are new to astronomy & curious about how to experience it, or a seasoned veteran looking for an active club to spend observation time with. We invite you to attend a meetings as our honored guest.

Monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd floor of MOSI in the Science Works Theater, & take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Meetings are free & open to the public.

Details & RSVP: <https://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/>

University of South Florida Humanities Institute



Get all the details of our many activities such as the Book Group, Books & Caffeine, lectures. Poetry, Humanities & Hops. *Always something to involve active minds!*



USF Freethinkers

Freethinkers@USF is a cosmopolitan collective of USF students promoting critical thinking & pluralism through dialogue & reasonable inquiry. Join the official group and vote on upcoming discussions: Contact: fadibitar@mail.usf.edu

Please Don't Delay – Get Your Shingle Shots Now!

The Food and Drug administration in 2017 approved the much more effective, Shingrix as the preferred alternative to Zostavax, which was approved in 2006.

Both vaccines are approved for adults age 50 and older for the prevention of shingles and related complications, whether they've already had shingles or not. If you have already had the first vaccine, get the second.

Also, don't forget your **Flu & Pneumonia shots!**



TBCoR Leadership Team 2020

Eileen Stafford, Aof

Bill Norsworthy, UUCH

Mark Brandt, UUCH

Chris Brown, MASH

Jenn Hancock, GTBFH

Rick O'Keefe, CFI

David Vangsness, TBS

Jim Peterson, HSS, TBPC, CoR Facilitator



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – June, 2020 Calendar

Because of CV-19, all gatherings in-person are cancelled pending further notice.

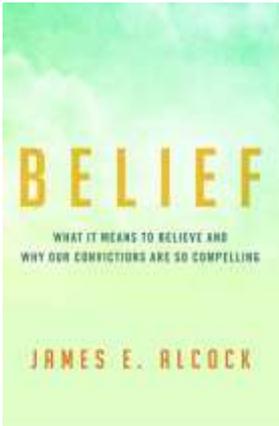


See our Meetup site for more/ONLINE: www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason

Various Sundays, 2 PM; & Friday nights	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Nights	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP : http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
TBA – various activities	TRI-COUNTY – Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	
TBA – various activities	STAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
2nd Saturday, 2 PM see Pg. 2 3rd Sunday -Dinner see Pg.	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists Now on the 2nd Saturday at 2 PM !	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists	
TBA – various astronomy activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
TBA - numerous events— this semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary! Page 12.	
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required. Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members.</i> http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	N TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP: No program this month! http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
Various Saturdays	NE CLEARWATER – CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to <i>10 paid-up CFI members.</i> RSVP is required. <i>Must have read the book under discussion to attend.</i> http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/2DVtwCd	
4 th Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	
Various Saturdays/Sundays plus various other times/ venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings & other activities. Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	

Read more on the web at: www.tampabaycor.net

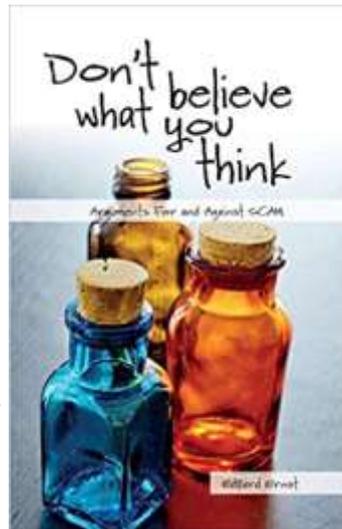
Evolve Fish is a source for freethought paraphernalia: <http://evolvefish.com/>



An expert on the psychology of belief examines how our thoughts and feelings, actions and reactions, respond not to the world as it actually is but to the world as we believe it to be. This book explores the psychology of belief - how beliefs are formed, how they are influenced both by internal factors, such as perception, memory, reason, emotion, and prior beliefs, as well as external factors, such as experience, identification with a group, social pressure, and manipulation. It also reveals how vulnerable beliefs are to error, and how they can be held with

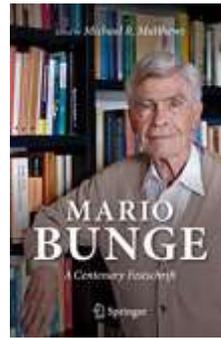
great confidence even when factually false. The author, a social psychologist who specializes in the psychology of belief, elucidates how the brain and nervous system function to create the perceptions, memories, and emotions that shape belief. He explains how and why distorted perceptions, false memories, and inappropriate emotional reactions that sometimes lead us to embrace false beliefs are natural products of mental functioning. He also shows why it is so difficult to change our beliefs when they collide with contradictions. Covering a wide range -- from self-perception and the perceived validity of everyday experience to paranormal, religious, and even fatal beliefs--the book demonstrates how crucial beliefs are to molding our experience and why they have such a powerful hold on our behavior.

So-called alternative medicine (SCAM) is a complex and controversial subject. Many people pretend to be experts in SCAM, but few know even the basic facts about it. Many consumers talk about SCAM, but few can be bothered to look behind the smokescreen of misleading claims. Many feel emotionally attached to SCAM, but few manage to think rationally about it. Many religiously believe in SCAM, but few show concern about the evidence. Many are desperate for help, but few seem to mind getting ripped off...



Enthusiasts of SCAM tend to hope for less side-effects, symptom relief, a cure of their condition, improvements in quality of life, and protection from illness. Such high expectations are usually based on misinformation, often even on outright lies. The disappointing truth is that not many SCAMs are truly effective in treating or preventing disease, and that none is totally harmless. In fact, the dangers of SCAM are multi-fold and potentially serious:

In this book, I address these issues in detail and explain how consumers get manipulated ... If my book enables you to question nonsense, call out untruths, correct falsehoods, ridicule stupidity, and disclose fake news, it surely was worth the effort.



This volume has 41 chapters written to honor the 100th birthday of Mario Bunge. It celebrates the work of this influential Argentine/Canadian physicist and philosopher. Contributions show the value of Bunge's science-informed philosophy and his systematic approach to philosophical problems.

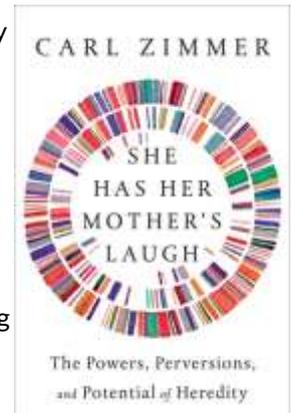
The chapters explore the exceptionally wide spectrum of Bunge's contributions

to: metaphysics, methodology and philosophy of science, philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of physics, philosophy of psychology, philosophy of social science, philosophy of biology, philosophy of technology, moral philosophy, social and political philosophy, medical philosophy, and education. The contributors include scholars from 16 countries.

Bunge combines ontological realism with epistemological fallibilism. He believes that science provides the best and most warranted knowledge of the natural and social world, and that such knowledge is the only sound basis for moral decision making and social and political reform. Bunge argues for the unity of knowledge.

Carl Zimmer presents a history of our understanding of heredity in this sweeping, resonating overview of a force that shaped human society--a force set to shape our future even more radically.

She Has Her Mother's Laugh presents a profoundly original perspective on what we pass along from generation to generation. Charles Darwin played a crucial part in turning heredity into a scientific question, and yet he failed spectacularly to answer it. The birth of genetics in the early 1900s seemed to do precisely that. Gradually, people translated their old notions about heredity into a language of genes. As the technology for studying genes became cheaper, millions of people ordered genetic tests to link themselves to missing parents, to distant ancestors, to ethnic identities.



... Weaving historical and current scientific research, his own experience with his two daughters, and the kind of original reporting expected of one of the world's best science journalists, Zimmer ultimately unpacks urgent bioethical quandaries arising from new biomedical technologies, but also long-standing presumptions about who we really are and what we can pass on to future generations.

A one week Florida Calendar of Atheist Organizations from [Atheists of Florida](#)

Thu Jun 4	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Skeptics on the Internet	Brevard Area Atheists Meetup
Fri Jun 5	8:00pm - 11:30pm	Brandon: CFI's Thank Goodness for Godless Friday Nights! (Skeptics in the Pub)	Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason
Sat Jun 6	9:00am - 11:00am	Street Warriors	Atheist Community of Polk County
Sat Jun 6	10:00am - 4:00pm	Monthly Reminder: Atheist & Humanist Blood Drives	Florida Atheists, Critical Thinkers & Skeptics.
Sun Jun 7	10:15am - 11:30am	En proceso (Reunión de Zoom)	Florida Atheists, Critical Thinkers & Skeptics.
Sun Jun 7	11:00am - 1:00pm	Tallahassee Atheists Regular Meetup	Tallahassee Atheists
Sun Jun 7	1:30pm - 4:00pm	Monthly Atheists Meetup	Brevard Area Atheists Meetup
Sun Jun 7	2:00pm - 4:00pm	ONLINE: Learn about the 4 active Florida-based Humanistic Judaism communities	Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason
Mon Jun 8	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Living Without Religion	Sarasota-Manatee Atheists and Secular Humanists SMASH
Mon Jun 8	6:30pm - 8:30pm	JAM Session	The Jacksonville Atheist Agnostic Secular Meetup Group
Mon Jun 8	7:30pm - 10:30pm	Monday Trivia Night in West Volusia	Florida Atheists, Critical Thinkers & Skeptics.
Thu Jun 11	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Skeptics on the Internet	Brevard Area Atheists Meetup

Above is a list of meetings across the state of Florida for the next week. Check the current calendar online (below) for future listings. Something's always going on, so check online frequently. We plan to inform you every two weeks about activities available across the state. We will include other information on the effort to keep state and church separate. Secular organizations of all kinds have unique perspectives to offer. Check them out.

The groups included have open meetings on MEETUP but there are private groups that are not included. The groups are included whether or not they are affiliated with Atheists of Florida.

Don't forget that meetings can be changed after the list has been generated so please make sure to check the most current entry in the calendar.

[Check the current calendar](#)



[Click here to let us know if we are missing a group.](#)

This is our time to shine!