



# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

## Is the World Getting Better or Worse?

Well, of course it is!

What passes for "news" today alarms us with the latest grisly crimes or sleazy political scandals, and then reassures us with heartwarming human-interest stories. Charities will warn you what bad things are about to happen unless you send money quick. Politicians say that things will soon be much better if you vote for them or much worse if you vote for their opponents. They can't all be right, can they?

Speaker **Matt Cooper** asks what would happen if, as rational (and yes, also emotional) thinkers, we were to take a step back and seek out the big-picture, long-term trends and probable consequences that will have the **most** impact on our future.

How accurate is our mental picture of the condition of our planet and society? When our great-grandchildren learn about the past, what will they see as important about 2012, and what will never make the history books?

Tomorrow alternately seems to loom and beckon, but in the most important ways, it will be a future of our own making, guided either by confusion, indifference and ignorance, or by long-view informed thinking. So, which way are we going? Can we count on present trends to continue? If so, what might tomorrow's world look and feel like?

Those who wish to research ahead regarding what's Better or Worse might enjoy perusing "Hot, Flat and Crowded 2.0" by Thomas L. Friedman or visiting [gapminder.org](http://gapminder.org) featuring Hans Rosling, both very illuminating, but covering only part of what we have to talk about. Incidentally, the format include more participation and discussion, which you are invited to join. See you there!

**This is a cooperative meeting with CFI.**

Volume 20 No. 10

October, 2011

Join us in our effort to ignite critical thinking, and embrace reason, & compassion in life.

~ **Join or Renew** ~

**The Humanist Society  
of the Suncoast.**

☞ Trial -3 month- free news

☞ Regular - \$25.

☞ Reg. Couple - \$30.

☞ Life - \$200.

☞ Life Couple - \$250.

☞ Associate - \$10.  Renewal

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

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

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

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

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

(Privacy respected)

Send to: Glenn Paul, Treasurer  
Suncoast Humanist Society  
2507 First St. #E  
Indian Rocks Beach  
33785-3010

## Please support the Humanist Society



Don't Forget...

## Tampa Bay Harvest Please...

bring as many boxed and canned food items as you can to this meeting.

With the important help of Glenn Paul and

**Tampa Bay Harvest**, we can do our part to help relieve significant human suffering in our area. This year's goal: 1000 pounds. **It's the Humanist thing to do!**

Coordinator, Glenn Paul says that Tampa Bay Harvest food deliveries in the past year - statistics -

TB Harvest delivered 2,765,517 pounds of food to 220 agencies who feed the hungry in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties last year. That's 5,531,000 meals to feed the hungry by TBH's calculations.

Please join us for this free and open discussion.

On **Saturday, October 1st**

at 2 PM:

Clearwater East Library

2251 Drew St.  
Clearwater

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

**Farmer Boy Restaurant**

at 2129 Drew St. just 2 blocks west of



An efficient and genuinely humanist way to respond to emergencies worldwide.

Now, Find the Humanist Society on [Facebook!](#)

**Be a Friend!**

Thanks to Bob Byrch!



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

## What do Humanists Want?

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 the human spirit.
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 moveable feast for October**  
will be held at

## Rumba Island Bar & Grill

1800 Gulf-To-Bay Blvd  
Clearwater  
(N.E. Corner of G-T-B & Keene)  
Sunday, October 16th, @ 5:00 P.M.

This restaurant has a variety of early bird specials. Seafood, Barbecue and Caribbean  
\$ \$9 and up per entree

Please reserve by October 15th with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or by email at [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com)

Hope to see you there; everyone enjoyed the place last November. Check out [www.rumbagrill.com](http://www.rumbagrill.com)

## Laugh Lines

Sign over a Gynecologist's Office:  
"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

In a Podiatrist's office:  
"Time wounds all heels."

On a Plumber's truck:  
"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

At a Towing company:  
"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

In a Nonsmoking Area:  
"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

On a Maternity Room door:  
"Push. Push. Push."

At an Optometrist's Office:  
"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Taxidermist's window:  
"We really know our stuff."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:  
"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company:  
"We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant window:  
"Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

Thanks to *Connie Purdom*

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

### Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

**Steve Brown**  
**Jim Butler**  
**Robert Byrch, Secretary**  
**Terry Eckstien**  
**Lois Fries**  
**Jon Green**  
**Matt Cooper, VP—treasurer**  
**Jim Peterson, President**  
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~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**Jim Butler Publisher.**

**Jim Peterson, Editor**

Have an Idea, opinion or essay you want to share?

E-Mail us at:

[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

## Brighten a Day

**for a member of our family**

As we get older, we get better, but sometimes there's just that little hiccup that might dampen our enthusiasm slightly. Then we need each other ....just a little more.

**Bob Collette** is recovering from surgery while wife, **Dot** is having a little trouble with general memory problems. They can use a little support. [dotybob@verizon.net](mailto:dotybob@verizon.net)

**Marios Psomas** recently had a little heart attack. Happily for us, he seems to be recovering nicely.

[marios\\_psomas@hotmail.com](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com)

Please let me know of anyone who would like to be contacted .

**Jim Peterson**  
[Jamestp@metrodirect.net](mailto:Jamestp@metrodirect.net)

See [page 3](#) for more on the new Caring committee

## A Humanist Helping Hand

It has been observed that “charity begins at home.” But there is something more to the notion of charity than merely the socially obligatory motion of making donations and offering support to relatives in times of stress. This is more than just a high falutin intellectual discussion group. We as individuals have long endured the vicissitudes of arrogant criticism for expressing unpopular and unconventional beliefs and ideas.. We come here to seek solace in the company of others with similar experiences. We come to bask in the acceptance we find here and in the unique values we often hear expressed. We find in the lives of others an empathetic resonance with our own lives.

But, as human beings we suffer the same losses, frustrations, setbacks, and triumphs as more conservative people. We have a need to share our collective and individual support to others seeking the refuge, nurturance, warmth, and consolation only we can provide.

A Social Caring Committee has been formed to help with our individual needs in times of distress or discomfort. If you are or know someone who is sick, recovering, hospitalized, going through a life trauma, or just lonely, and who would enjoy talking with other members, please let your editor know so they can be listed in our “Brighten a Day” feature on page 2.

At this point four members have volunteered to participate on the committee:

- ◆ Patricia Walters (813) 988-5977
- ◆ Terri Eckstein (813) 891-9399
- ◆ Jerry Moore (727) 455-4973
- ◆ Nan Owens (813) 662-6612

Contact any of them if you feel you or someone in our group may need help.

Humanism is a philosophy with a long history of advocacy for the well being of the human creature. This organization exists largely to provide for the needs of its members.

**Our Humanist Society is actively looking for interesting speakers with novel and well thought out ideas on just about any subject of interest to a general audience - even if not from a distinctly Humanist perspective.**

Let me know if you would like to recommend a person, idea, or organization.

Call Jim at (813) 531-8138 or

E-mail me at:

[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

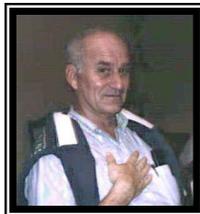
**Have an opinion, idea, news, or essay?**

This newsletter is your space.

For editorial consideration for the next issue, contact Jim Peterson at:

[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

## Share your favorite restaurant.



### Glenn Paul

has graciously resumed the helm as chair of the social committee.

As always, he welcomes your comments and suggestions for future venues for our mid-month dinner. He also serves as assistant treasurer for our group.



## Read Humanist Periodicals:

The Humanist, Free Inquiry, Free Mind, Humanist Perspectives, Skeptical Inquirer, Secular Humanist Bulletin, The Florida Humanist Journal, Skeptic, Essays in Humanism, and many others.

3

## The Tampa Bay Postcarbon Council

is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

Soon, council members will be presenting a course on Post Carbon issues at the University of South Florida. We will show that there are likely to be dramatic changes in the way we live in this century. These will affect all aspects of our lives including housing, transportation, work, the natural environment, and our relations with each other. See future issues for more.

This is yet another opportunity to bring attention to the problems and opportunities we will have in the future.

The philosophical perspective of humanism can make a significant contribution to that transition. We invite you to become a member of the Council, and make a difference in the quality of our lives. Click below or: [www.tampabaypostcarbon.com](http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com)



## Humanist Quotes

*“This country will enjoy the freedoms of religious diversity only when it is acceptable to criticize religion and the clergy as much as it now enjoys criticizing government and politicians.”*

### Frank Prahl

fprahl@verizon.net



Steve Brown's always provocative column has gone into hibernation while Steve nurtures more **Big Thoughts**.



## Humanists Celebrate Free Speech Victory in Arkansas



(Washington D.C., August 12, 2011) Leadership at the American Humanist Association celebrated after a federal judge ruled in favor of the United Coalition of Reason (UnitedCoR), who had been denied advertising space for an ad reading, "Are you good without God? Millions are." The Appignani Humanist Legal Center filed a lawsuit on behalf UnitedCoR in response to the Central Arkansas Transit Authority's refusal to lease advertising space on its buses on account of the proposed ad's atheist and humanist content, violating the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment.

"This is a victory for secular Americans everywhere, and proof that we will not be silenced," said David Niose, president of the American Humanist Association. "Humanists and atheists will indeed convey their message through the mass media, and they will fight through the courts if any discriminatory institutions try to stop them."

"The judge agreed that the transit authority likely would be found at trial to have violated the UnitedCoR's First Amendment right to free speech by discriminating against its atheist and humanist viewpoint, and therefore agreed to issue an injunction requiring the authority to contract with UnitedCoR on the same basis as any other advertiser," said Bill Burgess, attorney and legal coordinator of the American Humanist Association's legal arm, the Appignani Humanist Legal Center. "This is an important victory not only for the free speech rights of nontheists but for any American whose speech in a public forum may encounter government disapproval."

The decision is a testament to the movement's growing strength. In 2005, the American Humanist Association launched the first major secular advertising campaign, and the idea quickly caught on across the country as well as abroad. Similarly, the secular community had to rely on outside nonprofit groups for legal representation when humanist rights were violated, until the formation of the Appignani Humanist Legal Center in 2006, allowing humanists to spearhead efforts in federal court to protect the rights of nontheist Americans to advertise in Little Rock.

"Just a few years ago America had never seen a major secular advertising campaign or a humanist group capable of defending the rights of humanists in the courts," continued Niose. "In this case we see both, and it shows how far the movement has come in such a short time."

The Appignani Humanist Legal Center, a project of the American Humanist Association, provides legal assistance to defend the constitutional rights of secular Americans by challenging violations of the separation of church and state guaranteed by the Establishment Clause and seeking equal rights for humanists, atheists and other freethinkers.

The American Humanist Association ([www.americanhumanist.org](http://www.americanhumanist.org)) advocates for the rights and viewpoints of humanists. Founded in 1941 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., its work is extended through more than 100 local chapters and affiliates across America. Humanism is the idea that you can be good without a belief in God.

The **United Coalition of Reason** is a nonprofit national organization that helps local nontheistic groups work together to achieve higher visibility, gain more members, and have a greater impact in their local areas. We achieve this goal by assisting local groups in the "community of reason" to cooperate with each other.

("Community of reason" is a generic term that includes all self-identified nontheistic organizations, whether they call themselves atheist, agnostic, bright, Ethical Culture, freethought, humanist, Pastafarian, rationalist, realist, skeptic, secularist, Unitarian Universalist, or whatever else.)

Please visit  
[www.FloridaHumanist.org](http://www.FloridaHumanist.org)  
 to support HFA with your  
 membership & donations



Humanists of Florida  
 Association  
*Reason and Compassion in Action*



# The Illusion of Stillness

By *Apollo Gonzalez*, Natural Resources Defense Council

When I was a kid and things became too fast paced or stressful for me I would go outside, take off my shoes, and stand with my bare feet on whatever piece of earth was nearest me. I don't know where I learned to do that, but it always made me feel stable. It made me feel still. As I got older I struggled to understand the enormity of the truth that the planet was moving, rotating, revolving and part of the swirling mass of this galaxy, that we were anything but still. I didn't understand how we were not falling off, or how we couldn't feel it moving. It was hard to look beyond my physical experience of being still. Eventually, I came to like the idea of standing there in moments of stress, rooted to something so immense as it moved through the cosmos



Turn on your media outlet of choice at any moment of the day and even with all of your adult understanding and knowledge it is easy to see the human condition framed by a few thousand politicians and talking heads. It is easy to believe that we are mired in conflict, indecision, and fear. If one considers the state of affairs surrounding the health of our planet and the people who inhabit it, it is easy to believe that we have come to an impasse and are standing still. When faced with this *reality*, it is easy to despair. But if we would, even for a moment, choose to move through our community instead and see what people are actually doing, that *reality* would be shattered. Every day there are countless people in our communities taking the steps our politicians are debating. Every day there are more people biking to work than politicians debating whether building bike lanes is a good idea. Every day more people are buying their food from sustainable local markets than there are lobbyists for big agri business. Every day there are more people making their homes energy efficient than there are energy company executives hunting for new places to ravage for fossil fuels.

The Truth is and always has been this: we are a Moving Planet. There is no force strong enough to stop the people of this planet from making the positive change we need to live a sustainable existence. Not even fear.

This Saturday September 24th communities around the globe will be celebrate our motion, our movement, with a global day of action. [Moving Planet](#), a project from our dear friends at [350](#), will tell the story of thousands of communities who are moving us in the right direction away from the fossil fueled past, and toward the renewable energy future. Chances are pretty good that your community has a story to tell too, visit [moving-planet.org](#) to learn more about how you can participate. I hope to see your story there, but even if I don't I take comfort standing here with my feet firmly rooted in our Movement together.

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## Our Best Letters to the Editor

### The capitalist scheme

If Gov. Rick Perry is right and Social Security is a Ponzi scheme, then I submit that capitalism itself is a Ponzi scheme. Capitalism requires us to follow the mantra that "growth is imperative." It works as long as there is increasing demand and a concomitant increasing population. But like a Ponzi scheme, many of the most vulnerable in our society are just out of luck when demand wanes and the economic pie starts to shrink.

Mark Brandt, *Dunedin* 9-14-11

### Toward a deeper education

Thank you for publishing this excellent article. It is my opinion that there has been altogether too much emphasis on technology — and earning money — where education is discussed. Both technology and money are important, of course, but we must never forget that both gadgets and money are means to an end. The liberal arts give the student a glimpse of the richness of life, the endless diversity of its beauties, its sorrows and deep satisfactions. The TV and computer can often help us understand — and even appreciate — this awe-inspiring world, but they themselves are simply tools to our gaining this.

The authors of the article say regretfully that "what is being taught is no longer attuned to undergraduates looking for a broader and deeper understanding of the world." Years ago I had an instructor who said simply, "Art is what makes us human." Exactly.

Abigail Ann Martin, *Brandon* 9-6-11

## Random Acts of Kindness Computer Clinic

The **Tampa Bay Computer Society (TBCS)** will hold another **Random Acts of Kindness Computer Clinic** on **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** from **9am-1pm** at our offices in Clearwater. Free computer repair is a normal service that we provide to our members, but we're NOT inviting them for this event. This free event is strictly for the friends that we haven't met yet – **YOU**.

We will have a team of computer techs donating their time and expertise to fix the computers for our community. You **MUST** register for this event (we give you a time-slot, directions, etc. after you sign up). Please do **NOT** show up on our doorstep that day without a confirmation. Generally, we are over-subscribed and unable to take any walk-ins.

Sorry, we do not work on Apple Macs (I understand they never break anyway <grin>), and we are limited in what we can do for any hardware problems on laptops. However, for desktops we do everything (including installing hardware that you have purchased), and for laptops we clean out the malware, and get 'em running properly again.

I assure you there isn't any "catch" to this. We do not hound you to join our club... we are here to provide a service for you. It's very rewarding for our techs. The satisfaction we get from helping out our community is enormous. I hear our guys say, "That's the coolest thing I've ever done!"

If you want to register: [RAK Registration](#)

**Doc (Dave Dockery)**

# *Atheism and Humanism*

**Atheism** and humanism play across a spectrum of freethought development in this country. Is there a difference?

Atheism is viewed by most Humanists as an essential pillar of the Humanist worldview. The content of Atheism is simple enough. There is no reason to believe that deities or supernatural entities or phenomenon of any kind exists. After centuries of religious indoctrination, millions of people are now ready to declare their independence of such positions, and want to understand the world and themselves in more realistic terms. Living without god and in opposition to formerly conventional beliefs of this kind involves being more understanding and thoughtful about the actual relations among humans and thus more moral in one's relations with others. It means that the world is explained in terms of the mechanisms of nature rather than the miracles and curses of a capricious, shadowy deity. You are invited to discover your own life as a product of the same natural processes that govern the rest of the universe. In essence, you are free!

**Humanism** takes this one step further. As a 3000 year old philosophy rooted in the philosophical traditions of the west, Humanism has informed much of the body of secular writing in literature, poetry, philosophy, and the arts.

In contemporary terms, while organized humanism takes on the legal, political, and social rights of Humanists and other non-believers, a strong current is involved with advocacy for the beneficent outcome for the human creature as our species continues its evolution in the modern world. While the intense questions of Human survival that surround today's crises occupy the attention of many humanists, they are part of this same ancient tradition and provoke the same empathetic and compassionate responses that were the hallmark of humanist thinking during all the cataclysms of our history. Humanists would like to promote an unblinkered look at the totality and reach of the questions and propositions that arise from a conscious consideration of our present political, social, economic, and natural environment.. And always, there is never a fully complete answer to the question, "What does it truly mean to be human?" We must discover it for ourselves.

**Jim Peterson,**  
**President**



The Feminist Caucus of the American Humanist Association was established in 1977 as a coalition of both women and men within the AHA to work toward the advancement of women's rights and equality between the sexes in all aspects of society. Originally called the Women's Caucus, the new name was adopted in 1985 as more representative of all the members of the caucus and of the caucus' goals.

The Feminist Caucus continues to be the active feminist arm of the Association. Over the years, members of the Caucus have worked hard fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment and participating in various public demonstrations, including marches for women's and civil rights. In 1982, the Caucus established its annual Humanist Heroine Award, with the initial award being presented to Sonia Johnson. Other Humanist Heroines have been Tish Sommers, Christine Craft, Anne N. Gaylor, Patricia Maginnis, Fran Hosken, Cleo Kocol, Carolyn McDade, Sherry Matulis, and Sally Roesch Wagner. See a full list of [Humanist Heroines](#) from 1982 to the present. View Guidelines for the Humanist Heroine Award [here](#).

While the Feminist Caucus has continued to be in the forefront of actions promoting equality and rights, strength comes in numbers. And the strength of the Caucus can only increase as its numbers increase. In other words, *the Caucus need you!* With your support, the effectiveness of the Feminist Caucus will increase and its goals will be achieved. Membership is only \$15 a year for individuals, \$25 a year for organizations. Membership includes the [Feminist Caucus Newsletter](#).

[Join today](#) and help our voice be heard ever louder—ever stronger!

# Our Best Unpublished Letters

## Public Faith Isn't Fringe"

I take issue with a writer's statement that Geo. Washington - in his inaugural address speech did refer to a God as acknowledging "divine guidance." In fact, Washington was a 'Deist' - meaning he believed in a God, but as the creator - after setting the universe in motion, then abandoned it assuming no control over life!

Also, James Madison, Father of our Constitution, believed government should not pay for chaplains, exempt churches from taxes or give any other kind of aid to any religious sects. Fifty years ago I don't recall either Eisenhower, JFK or Lyndon Johnson ever using religion as a springboard to their successful political campaigning? J.F. Kennedy even emphasized his Catholicism would not factor into his decision making - and he kept his word.

Remember, in the 1st Amendment of our Bill of Rights, it clearly states there should be 'no law respecting an establishment of religion' - which I believe many Evangelicals wish to do within our government.

Glenn A. Paul

## Scam Alert...

Thanks, Glenn P.

Pass this on to your grown children and anyone else you can think of. This has been verified by the FBI (their link is also included below). Please pass this on to everyone in your email address book. It is spreading fast so be prepared should you get this call. Most of us take those summonses for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty that a new and ominous kind of fraud has surfaced.

The caller claims to be a jury duty coordinator. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the Scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Give out any of this information and bingo; your identity was just stolen.

The fraud has been reported so far in 11 states, including Oklahoma, Illinois, and Colorado, AZ and more. This (swindle) is particularly insidious because they use intimidation over the phone to try to bully people into giving information by pretending they are with the court system. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud.

Check it out here:

[http://www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/jury\\_scams060206.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/jury_scams060206.htm)

And here: <http://www.snopes.com/crime/fraud/juryduty.asp>



## A Florida Freethought Victory

A benefit concert on Aug. 28 for EllenBeth Wachs, the embattled church/state separation activist with Atheists of Florida, turned into a celebration as she announced to her audience that the trumped up criminal charges against her had been dismissed: Prosecutors realized that it was not in their best interest to move forward to trial and offered a settlement agreement that dismissed the felonies and averted convictions on all charges.

According to the AF news release, "The arrests were meant as part of a retaliatory strategy by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to suppress her activism in church/state separation matters, which she had directed at his transfer of jail basketball goals to area churches. Judd, an outspoken evangelical Christian who has stated that he is on a 'mission from god,' keeps a Bible prominently displayed on his sheriff's office desk.

"EllenBeth stated, 'Mr. Judd's despicable actions against me shined a bright spotlight on the intolerance and bigotry that atheists face every day. The secular community around the world came out in force to support me and speak out against this persecution. His abuse of power angered and mobilized the atheist movement to action reminiscent of an earlier civil rights era.'"

She is president of the Humanists of Florida Association, as well as the legal affairs coordinator and vice-president for Atheists of Florida. EllenBeth recently wrote, "Now that this is over I can get a lot more focused. ... [I]t is a big relief to be a "free" woman!"

In the meantime, AoF President John Keifer, who was also placed in legal jeopardy for exercising his rights, needs financial assistance to fight back against this same abuse of power. Please help him by donating to the AoF Legal Fund: [www.atheistsofflorida.org](http://www.atheistsofflorida.org)

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: [www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org)



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

## Center for Inquiry Calendar

### October peek ahead:

Saturday, 10/01 – **Lecture-Joint meeting** w. Humanists of the Suncoast – Clearwater

Tuesday, 10/11 – Skeptics in the Pub – Brandon

Thursday, 10/13 -- Skeptics in the Pub – Largo

Tuesday, 10/18 -- Skeptics in the Pub – South Tampa

Thursday, 10/20 -- Skeptics in the Pub – Dunedin

Tuesday, 10/25 – Skeptics in the Pub – South St. Pete

Thursday, 10/27 -- Skeptics in the Pub – New Tampa/USF

**Check Website updates** <http://www.CenterForInquiry.net/Tampa>.

At the Jan Platt Library, Oct. 22 11:30 –

⇒A presentation about the venerable **Green Party**. History, current status, future hopes. Perhaps a discussion of why, while it is a growing force in the industrial world, it remains virtually unknown (as do almost all 3<sup>rd</sup> parties) in the USA. Please RSVP if attending no later than noon Oct. 20 to [Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net](mailto:Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net). \*may require small guest fee to participate. Submitted by *Rick Okeefe*

In an action called **Occupy Wall Street**, thousands of activists took to the streets of Lower Manhattan on September 17.

The protests are continuing, with demonstrators camped out on the Financial District's Liberty Street in support of U.S. democratization and against corporate domination of politics (*Adbusters*, [9/19/11](http://www.adbusters.org/9/19/11)).

The answer to the problem of non-coverage would seem to be simple: If the people occupying Wall Street want more media attention, they should just call themselves Tea Party activists. ACTION:

Ask the nightly newscasts why they have decided to give little to no coverage to the Occupy Wall Street protests-- especially given their interest in Tea Party demonstrations. -- - *Jim P.*



Atheists. Agnostics. Humanists.  
Americans.

## ACTI★N ALERT

The new Secular Coalition of Florida is now forming under the leadership of Dr. Richard Golden of Miami. Over 30 groups supporting the fully secular vision of our country's government have lent support to the effort. A new website has been launched at:

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

According to Dr. Golden, "The Florida Chapter of this group would provide a voice on political issues for our small local non-theist groups. It will allow non-profit organizations to retain their 501 (c) (3) status while giving them a political lobbying force. This organization will function in a manner similar to the moral majority, which thirty years ago united small churches into a powerful national lobby and ultimately elected a president. We, too, believe that by uniting we can become a powerful voice. We clearly have the numbers and just need the organization. In Florida alone there are three million non-theists."



**Bob Byrch** represents our Humanist Society's interest in the council of the coalition. He will be a conduit of information from the Council and bring our issues to them for consideration.



Dear ACLU Supporters,

In the September days, we are all reflecting on the decade that has passed since the attacks of September 11, 2001. Foremost in our minds, of course, are the people who died and were injured on that horrendous day. At ACLU headquarters here in New York, just blocks from Ground Zero, they are never far from our thoughts.

Ten years ago, people across the country came together and a newfound sense of patriotism emerged. But, in the days that followed, too many of our leaders took advantage of that sense of patriotism to push through policies that directly defied American values, broke our laws, and undermined our Constitution.

Not a day has gone by over the last 10 years when the ACLU has not insisted that America can — indeed, must — be both safe and free. While others said that we had to sacrifice civil liberties in the name of security, you and the ACLU led the fight against a myriad of "war on terror" abuses, from torture and indefinite detention, to warrantless eavesdropping, extraordinary rendition, and racial profiling.

**Anthony Romero**, National chairman

For more information on Civil liberty in Florida, see: <http://www.aclufl.org>

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**Our Website** All newsletters from the past two years  
<http://suncoasthumanist.com>