



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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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

Planned Parenthood



Planned Parenthood has for almost a century been the hope and the instrument for the potential of humanity to overcome its subservience to its own biology. A rational, well ordered life is the sine qua non of the personal liberties that a scientific understanding of ourselves and our world enables. Millions have been helped to live better, more rewarding lives, not only in terms of personal control, but in better health. Thus it is, that this estimable organization has become the target for the most irrational, reactionary, politico-religious campaign in modern history. What does it say about our country, our times, that such a useful, and necessary social institution is in this position?

[See page 6](#) for more

Wendy Sears Grassi began her career in the office of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and went with him to New York when he ran for the U.S. Senate. In 60s and 70s she worked in media relations for the New York Democratic State Committee before joining the staff of Mayor John Lindsay. In the mid-'70s, Wendy took a sabbatical from politics and moved to Italy. She lived in Tuscany for four years. She eventually moved back to Washington, DC, and her last assignment there was working in the Clinton Administration for the AmeriCorps program. Since moving to Florida in 1996, Wendy has been director of public affairs for Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida.

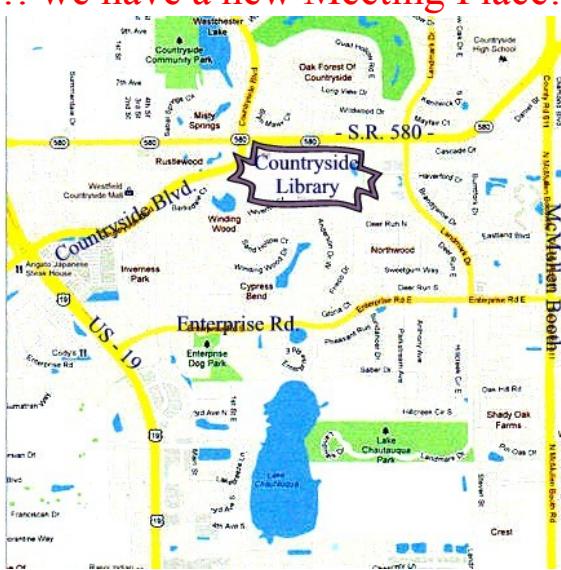
Join us March 3rd at 2:00 PM to hear more on this important subject.

Remember... we have a new Meeting Place!

Our Meeting space has moved to the **Countryside Library** at 2741 State Rd. 580 Clearwater, FL 33761.



Food: the first kindness.



Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food for

Tampa Bay Harvest.

Volume 20 No. 3

March, 2012

Join us in our effort to ignite critical thinking, and embrace reason, & compassion in life, and to make the light of our life shine in the dark places of confusion.

~ **Join or Renew** ~

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

- Trial –3 month– free news
- Regular -\$25.**
Renewal (January)
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Life -\$200.
- Life Couple -\$250.
- Associate -\$10.
- Contribution for growth

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

Name:

Address –if new :

City, State, Zip

Phone:

E-mail:

(Privacy respected)

Send to:

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

**Please join us
for this free and
open discussion.**

**On Saturday,
March 3rd
at 2 PM:**

**Clearwater Country
-side Library
2741 State Rd. 580
Clearwater, FL 33761**

Following our meeting, many of us will dine and argue together at the **Greek City Cafe**, across from the mall Close to the Library.



*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 march
will take place at the

The Island Way Grill

on Sunday March 18th at 5:00PM. This fine restaurant is located at 20 Island Way about half way across the Memorial Causeway, a continuation of route 60 through Clearwater on the way to Clearwater Beach. They offer a large selection of early bird specials for \$12.50 per person which includes soup or salad, coffee or tea and a desert.

Check it out at www.islandwaygrill.com

Must have order in by 5:30PM for early bird specials
Please reserve with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or
kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com by Saturday March 17th.

Laugh Lines 11 Political Truths

*The problem with political jokes is they get elected. ~Henry Cate, VII

* We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. ~Aesop

* If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these acceptance speeches there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven. ~Will Rogers

* Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber. ~Plato

* Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river. ~Nikita Khrushchev

* When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it. ~Clarence Darrow

* Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you. ~Author Unknown

* If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates. ~Jay Leno

* Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel. ~John Quinton

* Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. ~Oscar Ameringer

* The Democrats are the party that says government will make you smarter, taller, richer, and remove the crabgrass on your lawn. The Republicans are the party that says government doesn't work and then they get elected and prove it. ~P.J. O'Rourke

Thanks to Connie Purdum

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

Steve Brown

Jim Butler

Robert Byrch,

Matt Cooper, VP—treasurer

Terry Eckstien

Lois Fries, Secretary

Jon Green

Jim Peterson, President

Emeritus members: Anita Garcia,
Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore, Mark
Winterbottom, Bob Collette, Glenn
Paul, Don Acenbrach, Jackie Jordan,
Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard

~*~*~*~*

Jim Butler Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

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

E-Mail us at:

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 doing well, while wife, **Dot** is having a little trouble with general memory problems. They can use a little support.

dotybob@verizon.net

Marios Psomas recently had a little house fire. Happily for us, he 'll be moving back in in another month or so.

marios_psomas@hotmail.com

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

Jim Peterson

Jamestp@metrodirect.net

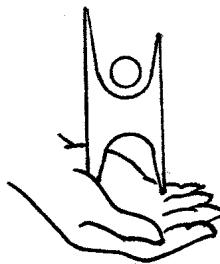
See [page 3](#) for more on
Humanist Helping Hands

Humanist Helping Hands

Several members have formed a caring response team to help any members of our Humanist family who may need supportive practical help. This is an independent group, not affiliated directly with the Humanist Society. But their efforts are wholly consistent with the Humanist outlook. Contact a member below if you wish to participate.

- ◆ 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.



Volunteer !

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If we are truly to make a difference in an often indifferent world, we will have to constantly renew our efforts.

Even if you have an active work and family life, there are always opportunities in ways large and small to be a leader in helping to right the world, to heal its wounds, and to create a place fit for gentle people to inhabit.

Nor is retirement the end of activity, but the beginning of putting your energy and efforts into the things that truly matter.

If you think that the basic philosophical outlook of Humanism can make a major contribution to human well being at all levels, it is time to join us as a volunteer to put your beliefs to work.

Contribute to the welfare of your own local community by leading efforts to bridge gaps, bring tolerance and social unity, and exercise kindness everywhere.

Give to our Food collection effort. Hunger is still a big problem everywhere.

At a recent board meeting, we made plans to participate with an **information table** at a major public event in the coming year.

We are putting together a **Speakers Bureau** for outreach. You can help in many ways.

And we need help in setting up our meetings: chairs, electronic components when needed, literature and food collection tables. See a **Board member** to offer your help. JP



Our Humanist Traveling Library

Thanks once again to the great and generous efforts of **Matt Cooper**, we are able to offer a great selection of fine Humanist books, that often are not found in local libraries. This is a circulating library that depends on the integrity (and memory) of members to return and keep circulated, the many volumes in this fine collection. Matt has "paid it forward", now it's our turn.

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

Have an opinion, idea, news, or essay?

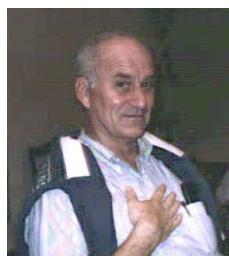
This newsletter is your space.

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

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Here's a chance to do some good by 'clicking on' to some various websites daily. It only takes about 1 minute each day to click onto thebreastcancersite.com, thehungersite.com and about 6 more worthy websites each day, each of which produces income for the site, and costs you nothing but a minute of your time. Please consider doing it daily - it is a gift that keeps on giving. I have been helping these websites for almost ten years.

Glenn Paul



"The ideals that have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been Kindness, Beauty, and Truth."

Albert Einstein

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.





OVER COMING HIDDEN BIASES

ON THE ANNIVERSARY of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination on April 4, 1968, an unintended consequence of the Civil Rights movement still gets little attention. The movement so transformed the way we thought about the relationship between blacks and whites that many white Americans became ashamed to admit to having a bias toward their fellow citizens who were black. In his 2010 book, *The Hidden Brain*, Shanker Vedantam indicates that we form biases in the early months and years of our life. He asserts that this process takes place independently of the parents' influence. He states that children's biases can develop no matter how hard a parent tries to shield his or her young ones from them.

I believe a major unfinished aspect of the Civil Rights movement is the need to face and overcome our own individual biases. We should realize that we need not be ashamed of biases formed years before we were able to keep them from our young, impressionable brains. I personally have known that I've held a deep bias toward blacks for about sixty years. When I say this most people I know don't believe it because they're aware of my belief and activism in promoting civil and human rights. They may also know that I married Charlotte, an African-American woman, in 1953. We shared our biases with each other and we both had confidence that we could move past them. Until recently, however, I wondered why I couldn't get rid of my prejudice, which lies below the surface, until I see a black face as an anchor on TV. In a split second, I wonder why that face is black and not white. In another split second, I recognize that my initial perception is counter to my conscious belief system and I dismiss it as unwanted.

In a 2009 *New York Times* op-ed, Charles M. Blow referred to studies concluding that most whites have a hidden racial bias. Blacks were shown to have biases toward whites, though not as frequently. As Blow summarized it: "Researchers were able to ameliorate whites' racial bias by teaching them to distinguish black peoples' faces from one another. Basically, seeing black people as individuals diminished white peoples' discrimination. Imagine that."

After years of facing skepticism when I told people that my brain must be hardwired for a negative attitude, social scientists appeared to agree with me.

As a white man living in a black family for the last fifty-eight years, and having served people of color as a social worker in inner cities, I can attest to having prejudice toward blacks and learning how to act without it. The key, I think, is to fully acknowledge it. Malcolm Gladwell discusses this phenomenon in his 2005 book, *Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking*. He quotes a psychologist, Keith Payne, who writes that, "When we make a split-second decision, we are really vulnerable to being guided by our stereotypes and prejudices, even ones we may not necessarily endorse or believe." Gladwell goes on to write that when one of our own hidden biases flashes before us, "we need to wait a beat before identifying the object in an unbiased way... the giant computer in our unconscious needs a moment to do its work."

A look at how police confront racial bias is very informative. There is now a method of training, recently implemented by the New York Police Department, that helps officers recognize and overcome bias. It uses research that indicates that when police officers believe their lives are in danger, they become so frightened that they are no longer able to recognize body language. When facing a person of color, officers too often think stereotypically and believe that the person is carrying a gun or a knife and is ready to use it.

In the training, the officers are taught to wait a split second before determining whether or not to shoot. With repeated virtual training an officer is able to put his or her bias aside, recognize the person's body language, and act appropriately. NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly recently announced a sharp decline in shootings by police officers. We can presume that the bias training was an important factor in that reduction.

After white people assure themselves that they aren't under the control of their bias, they may feel free to be as critical of individuals whose skin color differs from their own as they feel is warranted. This could lead to much more honest and even rewarding experiences. So now you know my story. I do hope you find it worthwhile, and I hope the day will come when we can share our stories, not out of a sense of confession, but out of a sense of satisfaction and a sense of victory over our demons.

Abe Markman got his master's degree in social work from NYU and spent his career finding creative methods and solutions involving youth and police behavior. He was the founder and former executive director of the Neighborhood Self-Help Older Persons Project in the South Bronx, and in 2010 was the recipient of the Community Service Award of the New York Society for Ethical Culture.
© The Humanist magazine Mar. '12





The bus is still not full as of this writing. Humanist Society members who would like to travel by Bus to DC for this event can contact Rick O'keefe:

rokeefe@centerforinquiry.net

What is the Reason Rally?

The Reason Rally is a movement-wide event sponsored by the country's major secular organizations. The intent is to unify, energize, and embolden secular people nationwide, while dispelling the negative opinions held by so much of American society... and having a damn good time doing it!

It will be the largest secular event in world history. There will be music, comedy, great speakers like **Adam Savage** of **Mythbusters**, **Tim Minchin**, **Paul Provenza** and **James Randi**, and lots of fun... and it's free! Full details at: <http://reasonrally.org/>

When will the Rally be held?

On March 24, 2012, from 10:00AM – 4:00PM at the National Mall, nontheists from all corners of the nation will descend on Washington, D.C. en masse to deliver the good news: "We're huge, we're everywhere, and we're growing."

Why are we doing this?

Across America, in every city, every town, and every school, secularism is on the rise. Whether people call themselves atheists, agnostics, secular Humanists, or any of the other terms used to describe their god-free lifestyle, secularism is coming out of the closet. According to the 2008 American Religious Identification Survey (PDF), the percentage of people with no religious affiliation grew in all fifty states.

The purpose of this particular rally will be to advance secularism (in the broadest sense of the word) in society.

Are we just going to use this opportunity to trash religion?

No. This will be a positive experience, focusing on all non-theists have achieved in the past several years (and beyond) and motivating those in attendance to become more active. While speakers have the right to say what they wish, the event is indeed a celebration of secular values.

What do you hope to achieve from this Rally?

To dispel stereotypes – there is no one "True Atheist" no matter what your pastor or parent may tell you. We will have non-theists from all political persuasions, ethnicities, genders, and backgrounds. We will show that there are atheists in every American demographic.

- **Legislative equality.** We want to show the country that atheists can run for office and adequately represent theists, just as theists in office can represent atheists proudly and openly. We deserve a seat at the table just like theists, and we hope this rally can put our values in the radar of American voters, who may one day elect an atheist to public office.

Introducing our new sister Organization...

Tampa Humanist Association

Join us Saturday, March 17, 2012, 11:00 AM for our next discussion!

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
Look for the Happy Humanist sign.
2902 West Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL
28.086807 -82.492584 L&L



Understanding Secular Humanism

led by Organizer, **Bob Byrch**.

A free-wheeling, no holds barred, round-table discussion on What do we understand by the term? How do we describe our life stance to others in our community? Does Secular Humanism offer the best hope for the future of our nation and the world? How do we get the word out to our fellow citizens?

Join us for this fun, open and, hopefully, enlightening discussion.

THA is headed up by HSoS board member, **Rob Byrch**, who in concert with HSoS, brought this into full fruition in December. Both groups are sharing programs at all levels, and provide twice as many opportunities for all members to hear speakers, participate in social events, and generally share in all the benefits that come from being in the company of people like us.

THA will recruit it's own members as well, and will have a major impact on further development in the Bay area. Along with CFI, headed by Rick O'Keefe, and AoF headed by Ed Golly, this will afford yet another convenient opportunity for independently minded people in our area to find each other. Read more about THA at: <http://www.tampahumanist.com>
www.facebook.com/tampahumanist
www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association

JP

Officers and board of THA:

President: **Robert Byrch**,
Vice-President: Rick O'Keefe,
Secretary: Dale Friedley,
Treasurer: Gale Barron,
At large Members: Gin Kohl Lieberman & Jim Peterson



It means much hard work, but the future for this group, with its outstanding leadership looks very promising. Those interested in attending future meetings should register on the Meetup page at:
www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association



Humanism, Our World, and Our Future

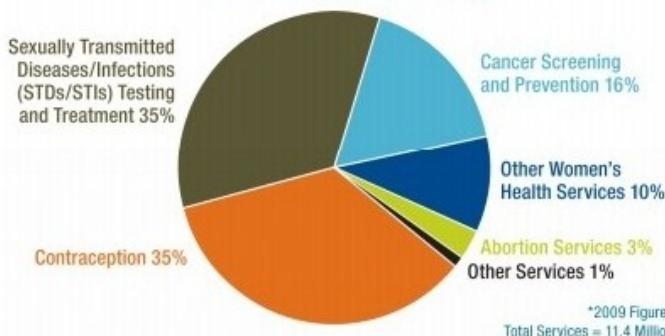


As you can see in the chart below, abortion services account for about 3 percent of Planned Parenthood's activities. That's less than cancer screening and prevention (16 percent), STD testing for both men and women (35 percent), and contraception (also 35 percent). About 80 percent of Planned Parenthood's users are over age 20, and 75 percent have incomes below 150 percent of the poverty line. Planned Parenthood itself estimates it prevents more than 620,000 unintended pregnancies each year, and 220,000 abortions. It's also worth noting that federal law already forbids Planned Parenthood from using the funds it receives from the government for abortions.

So though the fight over Planned Parenthood might be about abortion, Planned Parenthood itself isn't about abortion. It's primarily about contraception and reproductive health. And if Planned Parenthood loses funding, what will mainly happen is that cancer screenings and contraception and STD testing will become less available to poorer people. Folks with more money, of course, have many other ways to receive all these services, and tend to get them elsewhere already.

The fight also isn't about cutting spending. The services Planned Parenthood provides save the federal government a lot of money. It's somewhat cold to put it in these terms, but taxpayers end up bearing a lot of the expense for unintended pregnancies among people without the means to care for their children. The same goes for preventable cancers and sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. You can find a lot more information about Planned Parenthood and its services [here](#).

PATIENT CARE PROVIDED BY PLANNED PARENTHOOD AFFILIATE HEALTH CENTERS*



TBPCC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society. In February of 2012, council members presented [a course on Post Carbon issues](#) at the University of South Florida. We showed that there are likely to be dramatic changes in the way we live in the intermediate future.

Humanist Society members, **Ron Frase, Jim Peterson, Matt Cooper, and Luke Melton** presented this initial three week course. It took place at the USF Tampa Campus. The course encompassed the full range of likely social, economic, and natural problems that will engage the attention of people in the rapidly emerging future. While the constraint of time imposed by campus logistics prevented us from having the more full ranging discussion that is needed by many of these subjects, we did hit the most salient aspects of each area. The next time we do this, we hope to have 6 to 8 weeks to more fully unpack significant aspects of how these problems might impact our civilization. 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.

We will have a program encompassing elements from our presentation at one of our meetings soon.

This opportunity to bring attention to the problems and opportunities we will have in the future is hopefully the first of many. The philosophical perspective of humanism will make a significant contribution to the transition to a more humane future.

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

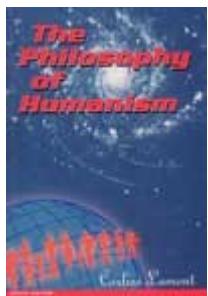
Humanist Books from the AHA

One Planet One People by Carl Coon Hardcover 149 pp \$22.



By Carl Coon, Former Ambassador to Nepal
In this succinct, highly readable overview of the evolution of human society, the author argues that the 21st century will witness a crucially important and difficult transition for the human race. Blending the disciplines of anthropology and evolutionary psychology with over thirty years of experience in the diplomatic corps, Coon traces the evolution of the human tendency to divide others into two groups, "us versus them." Today, he argues, we have reached a stage where the whole world must be viewed as "us," for only a united world community can cope with today's global challenges.

The Philosophy of Humanism - Corliss Lamont

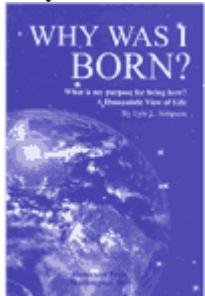


\$16.95

By Dr. Corliss Lamont.

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

Why Was I Born?



\$5.00

Why Was I Born? book.

What is my purpose for being here?

A Humanistic view of life by Lyle J Simpson.

These books and a great many more can be ordered from: **[The Humanist Press](#)**
<http://evolvefish.com/fish/HumanistPress.html>

economichumanrights.org

POOR PEOPLE'S ECONOMIC HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Contact: Rev. Bruce Wright

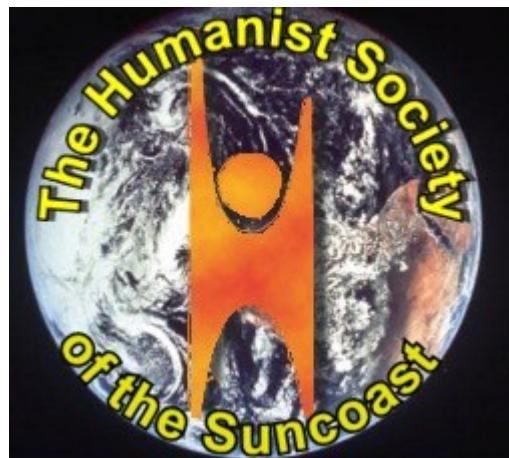
Phone: 727 278 1547

Email: bgcwright@aol.com or Cheri Honkala at: cherihonkalaPPERHC@gmail.com

Phone: 267 344 6318

The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign and others will march on opening day of the Republican National Convention on AUGUST 27th, Monday from 3pm to 530pm. This is a March of the Homeless, the Poor, the Unemployed and Supporters to call for a STOP TO ALL FORECLOSURES, STOP THE CRIMINALIZATION OF THE POOR AND HOMELESS. HOUSING AND FOOD ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

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



Current news of interest

The Development Committee

The Committee will meet in March according to Chair, Matt Cooper. There is still much to do if the Society is to fulfill its potential.

The Speakers Bureau

Those of us who would like to help the Humanist cause by becoming a speaker on various aspects for public organizations are invited to join the Speakers Group after the meeting.

The Tampa Humanist Association

Rob Byrch hosted the third meeting with guest, Toni Van Pelt, who spoke on the relation of Government and religion. The next meeting will be on March 18th at 11 AM: a round table discussion on the nature of Secular Humanism from various perspectives.



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!**

Glenn needs and deserves more support to make this project the success it ought to be for an organization of our size. If you can help (and I know you can!) please see Glenn to offer your support.



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

March 2012 Calendar

Submitted by **Rick Okeefe, with Dale Friedley, & Rob Byrch**

Dates/times may change due to unforeseen reasons,
 Event details are on CFI website! <http://www.CenterForInquiry.net/Tampa>
Join our Meetup to RSVP, and receive invitations, reminders, and
 changes. <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>

Special Events:

Secular Celebrant Training March 1, 2012—Orlando, FL

Americans United for Separation of Church & State head, Rev. Barry Lynn will speak at good Samaritan Church 6055 Park Blvd N. in Pinellas Park , Sat. Mar 24th at 7 PM.

Moving Secularism Forward Conference (CSH & CFI)—March 1-4, 2012—Orlando, FL

CFI Socials/Meetups:

2nd Thursday, Mar. 8 - **Carrollwood**, venue TBA

2nd Sunday, Mar. 11 - **Brandon**, Einstein's Birthday celebration

3rd Wednesday, Mar. 21 - **USF/New Tampa**, German Beer & Food

4th Monday, Mar. 26 - **Dunedin**, good beer/wine/food at Al Fresco

Other Socials:

3rd Sunday, Mar. 18 - Humanists of the Suncoast dinner (Island Way Grill, Clearwater)

Lectures/Discussions:

1st Saturday, Mar. 3 - Humanists of the Sun Coast (*Planned Parenthood*)

3rd Saturday, Mar. 17 - Tampa Humanist Assoc. (*Discussion—What is Humanism?*)

3rd Monday, Mar. 19 - Tampa Bay Thinkers discussion

4th Sunday, Mar. 18 – UUC Humanists (*Aspects of Religious Humanism*) The speaker will be Abhi Janamanchi, the minister of the UU's of Clearwater.

Upcoming National Events

Secular Celebrant Training March 1, 2012—Orlando,

Moving Secularism Forward (CSH & CFI)—March 14, 2012—Orlando, FL



Reason Rally March 24, 2012—Washington, DC: This is a nationwide celebration sponsored by the top secular organizations in the United States (including Center for Inquiry) to unify, energize, and embolden secular people nationwide. The Reason Rally is a FREE event. Slated to be the largest secular event in world history, the rally will be filled with music, comedy, and addresses by leaders of the secular movement. Go to the official bus rally bus site to reserve your seat on the bus for \$100.

Castles Along the Rhine Cruise April 19–May 6, 2012
Women in Secularism conference, May 18-20, 2012—Washington, DC



FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU Supporters,

If you've been watching the news lately, you know that women are facing an unprecedented nationwide attack. Now, anti-reproductive-rights forces in the Florida legislature have joined the war on women's health with a House committee passing what may be the most dangerous attack on women's access to abortion care in recent Florida history.

Tell the Florida legislature to stop playing doctor and trust Florida women to make their own private medical decisions.

The bill passed yesterday began as a targeted attack on medical facilities that provide abortion care to women, placing restrictive regulations on these clinics that no other kind of medical facility faces — an effort to regulate clinics that provide reproductive health services out of existence. But last-minute amendments require doctors to give their patients "medical advice" based on the junk science of "fetal pain" which has been debunked by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and is designed to intimidate and shame women.

Deciding whether and when to become a parent is one of the most private and important decisions a person can make. Because no two women's situations are the same, the decision should be made by her, her family, and her doctor — not by politicians. No government should force a woman to carry a pregnancy to term if she has decided she can't. If the legislature passes this bill or its companion in the Senate, it would be a crowning achievement to those who want government to intrude into the doctor-patient relationship and ignore the individual needs and situations of each woman.

For more information on Civil liberty in Florida, see: <http://www.aclufl.org> 3-12

**People
over Politics**

Our Website All newsletters from the past two years
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