

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 7 July 2013 Jim Peterson, Editor

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Evolve!

This is the imperative of our age as it is of every age. It is not of course, a slow physical evolution that drives us, but social, intellectual, political, and economic Transformations. It is not our bodies, but our restive and dynamic humanness that must grow.

Recent events once again drives us to notice that, though at times change may seem glacial, and that stability is our goal, the pent up energies of our culture often find a sudden and unexpected release.

DOMA is overthrown, but at the same time the voting Rights Act of 1965 is compromised. In that same week, the president sets forth a most urgent call for the congress to act against the threat of global warming even as powerful, profit driven, economic forces continue to campaign against regulations to constrain what is truly an existential threat to all humanity.

population in a strained environment demands cooperation and tolerance as the price of survival. Advocates of critical thinking and full education must lead the way. It is our self chosen obligation, as is always the case of those who lead the parade, to choose the route.

Many of us do not fully realize or appreciate the burden we have put upon ourselves just by being who we are. But to champion the cause of a life without delusion is to actively become an ombudsman for the greater good of our species.

In practical terms, this means we must attend to education and spend a little time at the school board to make sure that science is not diluted or negated by nonsensical religious mythologies.

It means that history, social science and the humanities must not become the victims of budget cuts. Literature, music, and art inform our personal version of humanity in essential ways.

We must speak up for and support; symphony orchestras, playhouses, poetry slams, eloquent writing in every form, physical and performance art, and the examination of serious questions.

But by far, we must support the growth and opportunity for friendship that unifies the people, gives us all purpose, and a common foundation. Steven Pinker shows the motion of history is toward a homeostasis of lesser violence, (daily news notwithstanding). Though our present economy seemingly works hard to erode it, trust becomes the new currency.

Even as the nuclear family loses its centrality, new forms of social integration and dependency are taking its place. Ours is a time of many new threads of technological and social change coming to the fore, each offering differing paths to an unknown future; we must find the ones most likely to be compatible with a truly human existence.

JP

Directory

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar

Rick O'Keefe

Web site

Jim Peterson

Newsletter

Jim Peterson

Special Projects

Mark Brandt



But beyond the questions of the moment, are trends and channels of the longer term. We are slowly coming to realize and appreciate the advantages conferred upon us by our ancient disposition toward the interwoven strands of connectedness that drive us to a cohesive community. The growth of world

Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

Rick O'Keefe, CFI certified,

Virginia Kohl-Lieberman, AHA certified



Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – July, 2013 Calendar

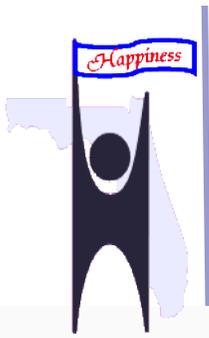
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This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where We are not liable for errors or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.

07- TBA, Thursday, 7 PM	S PINELLAS – Pinellas County Skeptics	Monthly skeptical dinner discussion http://www.meetup.com/Pinellas-County-Skeptics
07-, 1st Saturday , 2 PM <i>Not meeting in July</i>	CLEARWATER – The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: See page 3 http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
07-, Thursday, 12 Noon <i>Not meeting in July</i>	S PINELLAS – CFI Skeptics/Humanists Social	Monthly skeptical social http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
07-11, Thursday, 7 PM	N PINELLAS – Pinellas County Skeptics	Monthly skeptical dinner http://www.meetup.com/Pinellas-County-Skeptics/
07-14, Sunday, 1:30 PM	S TAMPA – Atheists of Florida–Tampa Chapter	<i>Quarterly Potluck</i> , for members. Details & to RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/
07-14, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON – Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub RSVP to Kathryn before Friday, May 10 th , noon. http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/
07-15, Monday, 6:30 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD – Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. RSVP at Web site: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
07-20, 3rd Saturday , 11 AM	TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Association	RSVP is required: Topic: see page 5 http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
07-21st. 3rd Sunday , 5PM	CLEARWATER Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Social Dinner. See page 4 for details. RSVP
07-21, 3rd Sunday , 3 PM	BRANDON – CFI Sunday Mixer	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
07-27, 4th Saturday , 10:30 AM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE – Readers Book Discussion	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've all read RSVP & Details: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
07-30, Monday, 6 PM	OLDSMAR – CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here before noon, July 27 (Saturday) : http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
07-TBA, see Web site	S. PINELLAS – Humanist film Meetup	Feature film TBA RSVP at Web site: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
07-TBA, Sunday, 12:30 PM	CLEARWATER – UU Humanists	See the UU Calendar for our events: http://uuclearwater.org/newindex.htm
09-28, Saturday, 11 AM	SW TAMPA – Tampa Bay Skeptics	Tampa Bay Skeptics quarterly meeting Web site http://TampaBaySkeptics.org/
see Web site	ORLANDO – Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. /www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa October: Disney in Orlando. https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/
see Web site	SARASOTA – Humanists of Sarasota Bay Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html	Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html
Twice Monthly	TAMPA - Café Philo, Philosophical Discussion Group.	See Website for all details.



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



The Humanist Society³ of the Suncoast News

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

Volume 21 No. 7 July, 2013



Global warming is real, so it follows that what we need now is not a presentation about combating critics (also called "denialists") or delving into science minutia. Instead, this is a whirlwind tour of climate change now, touching on its history, coming consequences, political obstacles and possible solutions. We see what effects are being experienced now, and what scientists calculate the future will hold for the average American, and the average human being. Proposed solutions are shown to be sometime practical, sometimes inadequate, and often just batsh*t crazy.

Finally, our speaker makes a candid calculation of how he personally will need to change to make exactly a zero contribution to global warming. Following the presentation, the group is invited to contribute their own ideas during questions and answers.

Note ! Because of a problem with our usual meeting space, we will be on hiatus for the month of July. Or, if you need a humanist fix, see [page 5](#) for an alternative. Stay tuned: We will resume pondering the venerable questions at our August meeting above. This will be among the most important matter we will discuss. Please attend.

September may be a washout also, but for the rest of the year, and through 2014 the venue is set.



Food: the first kindness. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. There is increasing hunger here in our community. Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food or checks for:

Tampa Bay Harvest

Please join us for
our next free and
open discussion.

**Saturday,
August 3rd.
at 2 PM:**

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

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

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

TITLE

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. The Expanding Circle | 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 Hawkins |
| 25. Breaking the Spell | Daniel Dennett |
| 26. The Philosophy of Humanism | Corliss Lamont |
| 27. The Quotable Atheist | Jack Huberman |
| 28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God. | 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 Rest of 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 |

AUTHOR

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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. Atheists Guide to Christmas | Robin Harvie |
| 57. Me of little Faith | Lewis Black |

And More...



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

What is the Humanist Way?

1. To extend a human centered approach to the critical problems of life and society.
2. To encourage attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance and a loving generosity in human relationships, and in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others and encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture and experience.
3. To develop and popularize the skills of creative and critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition and irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.
4. To exalt those artistic and imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure and enlightenment, and which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, and other expressions, we embrace the essence of what it means to be human.
5. To explore the grounds of ethics and morality within the unfolding history of our evolving culture. Such knowledge will enable us to become effective protagonists for the happiness of the individual person. JP

Humanist Society monthly social dinner,

The Moveable Feast for July will be at:

RUMBA ISLAND GRILL

1800 Gulf-To-Bay Blvd, Clearwater
(N.E. Corner of G-T-B & Keene)
Sunday, July 21st, 2013 @ 5:00 P.M.
This restaurant has a variety of early bird specials.

Seafood, Barbecue and Caribbean \$ \$9 and up per entree

Reasonable priced beers and wines are available also. Early birds must be ordered by 5:30 PM
Please reserve by July 20th with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347
or by email at kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com

Hope to see you there; everyone enjoyed the place the last time we were there. Check out www.rumbagrill.com

Laugh Lines *Maybe... we can do it!*

"Man will never reach the moon regardless of all future scientific advances."
-- Dr. Lee DeForest, "Father of Radio & Grandfather of Television."

"The bomb will never go off. I speak as an expert in explosives." -- Admiral William Leahy, US Atomic Bomb Project

"There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom." -- Robert Millikan, Nobel Prize in Physics, 1923

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." -- Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." -- Thomas Watson, of IBM, 1943

"But what is it good for?" -- Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"640K (computer memory) ought to be enough for anybody." -- Bill Gates, 1981

This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is of no value to us," -- Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?" -- David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper," -- Gary Cooper on his decision *not* to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind."

"A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make," -- Response to Debbi Fields' idea of starting Mrs. Fields' Cookies.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible," -- Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this," -- Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3-M "Post-it" Notepads.

Thanks to: **Bob Collette** 7/13

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

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Anita Garcia

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Beth Maxie

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Marios Psomas, treasurer

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Jerry Moore, Mark Winterbottom,
Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn
Paul, Don Acenbrach Dec., Jackie
Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,
Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Jordan Williams, Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com



The **Kochhar Humanist Education Center** hopes to impact the level of community activism among chapters and affiliates of the American Humanist Association by providing case studies and citizen action guides; they bring to light issues on minority religions and ethnicities that humanist chapter members may not have considered before. It will also expand existing efforts like Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism and utilize other resources in working to eliminate the pernicious effects of ignorance and discrimination.

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

813-273-3652 **Tampa Humanist Association**

Saturday, July 20th, 2013, 11:00 PM

Look for the Tampa Humanist Assoc. sign.



We have been meeting at the Jimmie B. Keele Library on Bearss Avenue, but that facility has ceased accepting reservations for meeting rooms until construction is finished in the next 8 months or so.

For now, we will meet at the Town & Country Library beginning this coming Saturday, July 20th at 10:30 til 12:30. We will be in Community Room A on the first floor next to the bookstore. The library is at 7606 Paula Dr., Suite 120 Tampa, FL 33615-4116 PH. 813-273-3652 [MAP](#)

Our topic:

The problem of Evil

This is one of the most difficult contradictions for theologians to grapple. The argument states simply that God, the creator of the universe and all its properties, has certain necessary attributes. Among them is omniscience (all knowing), omnipotence (all Powerful), beneficence (all good.) A severe contradiction arises in attempting to reconcile the presence of evil, which may be defined as events and conditions that causes pain and suffering to sentient beings in the universe, with any kind of deity in the traditional normative sense as defined above.

How does our world view shift in consequence of this? How do we account for evil? What can we do about it? Join us for an interesting discussion.



The Tampa Humanist Association is the only AHA Humanist group in Hillsborough County. This is a county of more than 1 million people. If statistical averages are correct, than at least 150,000 of those people do not support conventional institutions of religion. Currently, our roles do not number more than 20. I think we can agree that there is room for growth.

We experienced a major setback with the death of president and cofounder Rob Byrch, but with still enthusiastic members and board, and support from our sister organization, the Humanist Society of the Suncoast, we continue to offer the people of Tampa, a local Humanist option.

A Humanist Helping Hand

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

- ◆ Terri Eckstien (813) 891-9399
- ◆ Jerry Moore (727) 455-4973
- ◆ Nan Owens (727) 424-2558



~ **Time to Renew** ~ ⁵

*The Humanist Society
of the Suncoast.*

Annual Dues

_ Trial -3 month- free news

_ **Regular -\$25.**

_ Reg. Couple -\$30.

_ **Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin)**

_ Life -\$200.

_ Life Couple -\$250.

_ Associate -\$10.

_ **Contribution for growth**

New!



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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send to:

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

Humanist Quotes

"It makes no more sense to postulate a special brain-soul in order to account for the activities of the brain than to postulate a special stomach-soul in order to explain digestion, or a special lung-soul to explain breathing"

**Corliss Lamont,
1902-1995, philosopher**



Atheists of Florida



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

AoF outreach programs can be found at our [Meetup](#) site. Current newsletters are available by writing to: Athaifle@aol.com.

JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#). **Our Family Fun & Potluck Day is scheduled for July 14th 1:30 PM at a location available to those who are, or become members.**

Our first meeting of every quarter including this one is a potluck, the address information is available only to members of our [Meetup](#) since it is usually in a private home.

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

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

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

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

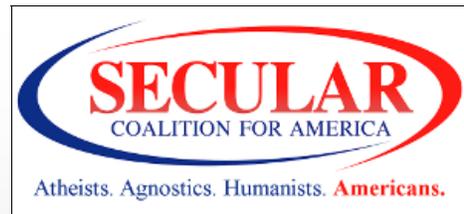


Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



**National Secular Movement Update
Newsletter and Call**

**Call Every Thursday from 12PM - 12:30PM (ET)
Phone Number: 559-726-1300 Code: 199568**

<http://secular.org/>



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

Clearwater UU Humanists

We are a group of Unitarian Universalists committed to a humanistic and non-theistic worldview. Currently, meetings are scheduled once a month and are usually held on the third Sunday of most months from 12.30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services.

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

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

UU Humanists will have their monthly meeting on Friday, July 26th at 5:30 at **Georgie Boy's Restaurant** on 1101 S Missouri Ave. Clearwater. Topic: **"Launching the new year's events."**

Join the fun and conviviality!
All are welcome.



Leaders of Clearwater UU Humanists and CoR meet with HoF Exec. Director, Teresa MacBain (under the '3') June '13

Life Ring Secular Recovery group meets every Monday evening at 8p.m., at Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church at 2817 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater. The meeting takes place in a modular building at the back of the parking lot. This is a recovery support group for alcoholics and drug addicts who do not believe in, or feel comfortable with, the idea of a higher power as strongly encouraged in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have any questions, feel free to call 727-772-3360.

Advertisement... Housekeeper/cleaning person wanted about three times a month on Saturdays. Just the usual: bed linen changing, wash, vacuum, dust, cleaning bath and kitchen sort of things, also some driving for errands. A primary requirement is that this person live in the North Tampa area. The pay will be negotiable. See: [P. Walters](mailto:P.Walters) (813) 988-5977



FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU Supporter,

Hi, my name is Jesus Guevara, and I am 13 years old and in 6th grade. I am a U.S. citizen and my brother and sisters are too-but our father is undocumented. I love my father and I want him to stay here in the U.S. with us, but I am scared that he will be deported. This Father's Day, I write on behalf of my family and all of the other families who are living in fear of their fathers being deported and taken away from them.

This Father's Day tell your Senator to keep families like mine together by supporting immigration reform that creates a system with a fair roadmap to citizenship!

My family is a Mexican-American family. The U.S. is our home and we love this country. My father has been here for more than 20 years, and has worked hard to provide for us. Thanks to his hard work we own a house. Like many families across the country, this Father's Day we are throwing a big party for my dad, to show him how much we love him. I worked very hard to buy a nice present for him. He has given me so much. He risks being stopped by the police just to take me to school or to be there any time I receive an award or have a special event at school.

Tell Senator Rubio to help our family, and families like mine, by supporting a roadmap to citizenship in immigration reform.

It is very hard for me to live with the fear that I might not be able to see my father again. I've never been in Mexico, and I don't want my father to go there. In the next couple of years, I want to learn how to drive, and to graduate from high school. I know that if my father is here with me I can achieve big things. Every night before going to sleep, I pray for my family and for all the families in this country that this is not the last day I spend with my dad.

**People
Over Politics**



Florida Now

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

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

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area:
Americans United,* Tampa Humanist Association, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Center for Inquiry, UU Humanists Clearwater, UU Humanists Tampa,* Secular Student Alliance USF,* Atheists of Florida, Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought ideas and principles. (*= not currently members of the Coalition)

Member organizations and agencies should contact the following CoR representatives about the matters indicated:

Calendar:
Rick O'Keefe

Newsletter:
Jim Peterson

Web site:
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

For several years now, various leaders of the Freethought community in the bay area have been meeting informally to share experiences, and occasionally to coordinate plans. But recently, changing circumstances have brought additional pressure to cooperate in bringing programs and members services to an expanding movement.

At this point leaders continue to meet, and together with the various boards of directors and committees, try to develop policies that will enable every group to enhance its unique role in serving its members.

There appears to be general agreement on developing several community wide programs over the year that will allow significant speakers to be presented in our area. The costs of these programs will be shared among the organizations proportionally.

Thus substantive and exciting new activities will be offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason and its director, Fred Edwards. You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God. Millions are!"

TBCoR is an alliance of groups identified with the freethought / Humanist /Atheist movement.

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments. JP
Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net



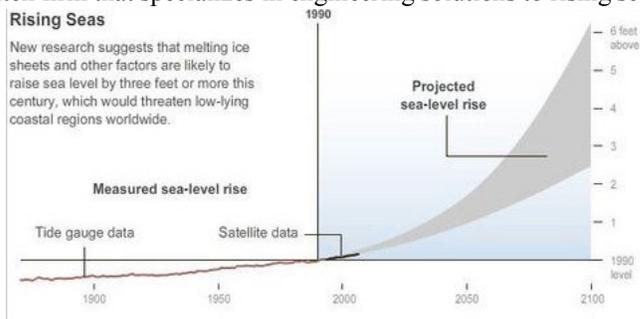
TBPPC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.
Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more. 06/13

Scientist: 'Miami, As We Know It Today, Is Doomed.'

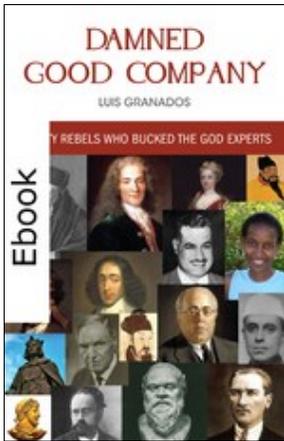
It's Not A Question Of If. It's A Question Of When.'



South Florida has two big problems. The first is its remarkably flat topography. Half the area that surrounds Miami is less than five feet above sea level. Its highest natural elevation, a limestone ridge that runs from Palm Beach to just south of the city, averages a scant 12 feet. With just three feet of sea-level rise, more than a third of southern Florida will vanish; at six feet, more than half will be gone; if the seas rise 12 feet, South Florida will be little more than an isolated archipelago surrounded by abandoned buildings and crumbling overpasses. And the waters won't just come in from the east – because the region is so flat, rising seas will come in nearly as fast from the west too, through the Everglades. Even worse, South Florida sits above a vast and porous limestone plateau. "Imagine Swiss cheese, and you'll have a pretty good idea what the rock under southern Florida looks like," says Glenn Landers, a senior engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This means water moves around easily – it seeps into yards at high tide, bubbles up on golf courses, flows through underground caverns, corrodes building foundations from below. "Conventional sea walls and barriers are not effective here," says Robert Daoust, an ecologist at a Dutch firm that specializes in engineering solutions to rising seas.



The Humanist Press

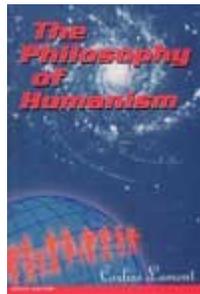


Damned Good Company By Luis Granados

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

The Philosophy of Humanism - Dr. Corliss Lamont

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

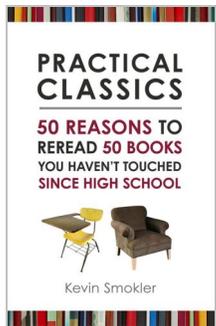


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Prometheus Press

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

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

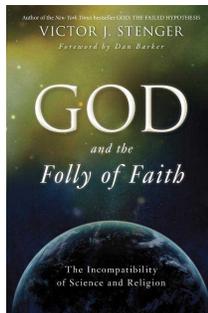
\$18.00 Paperback, 320 pages. [Order here:](#)

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

By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.

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

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



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

Nobody Dies in the Spring

Nobody dies in the spring
on the Upper West Side:
nobody dies.
On the Upper West Side

we're holding hands with strangers
on the Number 5 bus,
and we're singing the sweet
graffiti on the subway,
and kids are skipping patterns through
the bright haze of incinerators,
and beagles and poodles are making a happy
ruin of the sidewalks,
and hot-dog men are racing
their pushcarts down Riverside Drive,
and Con Ed is tearing up Broadway
from Times Square to the Bronx,
and the world is a morning miracle
of sirens and horns and jackhammers
and Baskin-Robbins' 31 kinds of litter
and sausages at Zabar's floating
overhead like blimps--oh,
it is no place for dying, not
on the Upper West Side, in springtime.

There will be a time
for the smell of burning leaves at Barnard,
for milkweed winging silky over Grant's Tomb,
for apples falling to grass in Needle Park;
but not in all this fresh new golden
smog: now there is something
breaking loose in people's chests,
something that makes butchers and bus boys
and our neighborhood narcs and muggers
go whistling in the streets--now
there is something with goat feet out there, not
waiting for the WALK light, piping
life into West End window-boxes,
pollinating weeds around
condemned residential hotels,
and prancing along at the head
of every elbowing crowd on the West Side,
singing:

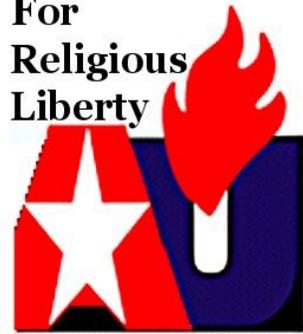
*Follow me-- it's spring--
and nobody dies.*

---Philip Appleman



A Tradition of Advocacy

For
Religious
Liberty



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

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



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

**The Military Association of
Atheists and Freethinkers**



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

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

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris

(christbrown@yahoo.com)

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



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

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

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

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

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

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

Today's topic is:

What's Holding Humanism Back?

I spoke at the American Humanist Conference a couple of weeks ago. It was a fun time and I met lots of lovely people. I spoke at a pre-conference session on How to promote Humanism beyond the choir.

For those of you who receive this mailing, much of what I spoke about isn't news to you. There are a lot of opportunities to talk to the general public about Humanism.

We can talk about values, dignity, worth of humans, a host of civil and human rights issues. We can also engage and discuss Humanism in medicine, psychology, nursing, sociology and business.

In fact, there are so many ways to introduce the value of Humanism to people that I truly don't understand why we don't engage in these opportunities more.

I'm not the only one who feels this way. James Croft, who is with the Humanist Chaplaincy at Harvard recently posted on his blog - 3 things holding Humanism back - see: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/templeofthefuture/2013/03/three-things-holding-humanism-back/>

It's worth reading. I'm not going to repeat his arguments here. Suffice it to say, I agree with him.

One of the main problems I think we have is that we are afraid. We are afraid to label ourselves Humanists and to share our values with others because we, rightly, don't want to proselytize. We are afraid of falling prey to group think that we refuse to create true communities that can nurture us and support us in our values and aspirations as Humanists. If we, as Humanists are too afraid to talk to others about Humanism, we should not be surprised if we continue to be sidelined within not only the larger freethought community, but also within society at large.

We need to stop being afraid and start taking the responsibility to share our Humanism with others.

Jennifer Hancock



AHLC News

[Atheists Celebrate Supreme Court Decisions on Marriage Equality](#)

June 26, 2013 – The American Humanist Association expressed satisfaction with decisions by the United State Supreme Court today that are consistent with the country's move toward acceptance of marriage equality.

[Humanist Legal Center Helps Atheist in Quest for U.S. Citizenship](#)

June 20, 2013 – U.S. immigration officials have reversed their demand that an atheist woman applying for U.S. citizenship get a letter from a church to justify her request to opt out of the requirement that she "bear arms" in defense of the United States.

[Legal Center Supports Atheist in Citizenship Fight](#)

June 17, 2013 – The legal center has sent a letter to federal officials supporting the citizenship application of Margaret Doughty, an atheist who has lived in the United States for decades and is seeking to become a naturalized citizen.

[Christian University's Chapel Used for Public School Graduation in South Carolina](#)

June 11, 2013 – Legal Center acts on behalf of parents, calling for end to sectarian events.

[Secular Recovery Programs to Be Approved by Massachusetts Medical Officials](#)

June 10, 2013 – The AHA Legal Center is working to ensure access to secular recovery programs in Massachusetts.

Find out more about end of life issues.

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

information see: <http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm>

& www.compassionandchoices.org



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

While acknowledging that there still exist "deniers," President Obama noted that 97 percent of scientists now agree the climate is changing, and that human activity is primarily responsible through the release of greenhouse gasses. He added that this near consensus now includes a number of scientists who were former skeptics, and that global temperatures have reached record highs in 12 of the last 15 years, emphasizing that the process responsible - the greenhouse effect - is well understood by science. He further noted that many destructive events can now be attributed partly to climate change, even if we cannot blame each individual event on the process. The close correlation of increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with rising global temperatures and increasingly destructive hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, droughts, coastal storm surges and sea-level rise is well confirmed by climate science, both from observations and global climate modeling.

The president emphasized that we have an imperative to act to both modify those activities that are driving climate change and also to pursue new scientific advances and new technologies that will lead us into a healthier energy future. He provided statistics to show that wind and solar power are rapidly increasing their fraction of the energy we produce, even if that fraction remains small, and that by adding nuclear power -- and, especially for the mid-term, natural gas as major and cleaner energy sources -- we can continue to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel sources that are the major sources of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today. He reviewed former legislative accomplishments and presidential directives already being implemented, including some of his own, emphasizing that Republican presidents had contributed to proposing and supporting many of them in days when the country could expect more compromise than recent political wars seem to allow. He called his plan a New National Climate Action Plan, and in light of current political conditions, made it clear that his administration could and would implement much of it independent of Congressional inaction on climate change. The president also emphasized the global nature of this challenge, requiring that the United States play a leading role while also cooperating with other nations to achieve solutions.

The moral tone of President Obama's speech was evident through out. He clearly deplored a spirit of inaction or business as usual in many of his remarks. He noted that American science, technology and industry have already made major advances in reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide and other forms of pollution, operating more in a spirit of forward looking can do than backward looking don't change anything. He constantly referred to our current responsibilities to those who follow us, remarks that invariably drew cheers from his young audience. Yet his remarks were generally balanced and realistic. On the controversial issue of the Keystone pipeline, the president made clear the criterion on which his decision will be based. It will be determined by the impact on climate change. It is hard to disagree with that criterion on anything affecting climate change, an issue that may be approaching criticality.

Stuart Jordan is a retired senior staff scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and president of ISHV. He holds doctorates in physics and astrophysics and is a Rhodes scholar. His book, [The Enlightenment Vision - Science, Reason, and the Promise of a Better Future](#) was published earlier this year by Prometheus Books.





Rick O'Keefe

Join CFI's Humanist book club, a monthly discussion. Contact [David Vangsness](#) for details.

CLICK here for [National Events](#) To become part of our important work; to make a difference, become a [Member](#).

Announcing a new opportunity for your atheist, freethought, humanist, secular, or skeptic group

BECOME PART OF THE CFI NETWORK

The Center for Inquiry has a broad mandate to promote and defend science, reason, and secular values. The CFI tent is big, so the CFI Network links together new and existing independent groups of *many* varieties—atheists, freethinkers, humanists, secularists, *and* skeptics—in order to **maximize cultural and political impact**.

The CFI Network is also a way for us to share the benefits of our international leadership and structure with local groups, while allowing those groups to remain independent and true to their individual interests. At the same time, it creates an opportunity for local groups to coalesce their grassroots energy and efforts behind national and even international campaigns.

The CFI Network is open to local and independent groups from anywhere. There is no fee to become part of the CFI Network, and it's easy to apply. To begin, read the program details below and discuss them with your group's leadership and members. If the CFI Network program aligns with the mission and purpose of your group, [submit your information via this link to start the application process](#).

Whether the focus has been atheism, freethought, humanism, secularism, or skepticism, local groups and large national nonprofit organizations have worked for decades to bring people together to unite behind their specific causes. After all, we realize that if we are to make an impact on our cultural and political landscapes, we need to combine the voices—and organize the efforts!—of thousands and thousands of people.

Historically, organizing the work of so many different people and groups has proven to be very difficult. As a result, our combined impact isn't actually combined—it's sectional, which of course means that it's not as powerful as it could be. As we all witness every day, it's certainly not as powerful as it *needs* to be.

There must be a system that can bring together all the members of the “reality-based” community. Whether we identify as atheists, freethinkers, humanists, secularists, or skeptics, we all share basic values rooted in inquiry, naturalism, and the scientific method—values that urgently need to be demonstrated and advanced in the broader culture.

There must be a system that can unite all of our voices when success requires our voice to be strong.

Benefits for CFI Network groups include:

Association with an internationally recognized organization and brand, an association that provides the opportunity to expand your group's reputation and influence at the local level, in the broader movement, and, importantly, beyond the movement.

Access to the comprehensive CFI Outreach Grassroots Organizing Guide, with over 150 pages of helpful tips and tricks about local group organizing. The guide also includes dozens of sample event signs and advertisements, press releases, and volunteer organizing materials. It will be updated on a regular basis.

Access to new CFI Event Kits produced every quarter to help groups celebrate some of the most important occasions in the atheist/humanist/skeptic calendar, including Carl Sagan Day, Darwin Day, International Blasphemy Rights Day, and Ten Amendments Day. Event Kits will also give instructions on how to host major events such as solstice parties, superstition bashes, “Ask an Atheist” panels, and Ingersoll oratory contests. Event kits include posters/flyers that can be customized with a group's event details, sample press releases, educational materials and background information for each event, suggested activities, basic logos and imagery for promotional items, etc. CFI Network groups may also purchase event-themed products from CFI (available at cost), which they can then sell to raise funds to support their groups.

Improved outreach: in addition to listing CFI Network groups and contact information on its website, CFI will promote to its contacts any major regional events hosted by CFI Network groups.

Improved advocacy: by working with CFI headquarters, CFI Network groups will be able to utilize CFI's online advocacy platform to lead regional public policy and awareness campaigns—for example lobbying a local school board to adopt an evidence-based science curriculum or petitioning a governor to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the statehouse. Members of CFI Network groups will also be activated to participate in CFI's broader public policy initiatives, making it possible for them to impact national policy and even international issues via CFI's NGO status at the United Nations.

Educational resources, including complimentary copies of CFI's publications/magazines and related discussion guides, mission-related brochures, and sample reading materials.

In exchange for the above benefits—indeed, in order to get the most out of these benefits—groups in the CFI Network are expected to: Clearly acknowledge the group's participation in the CFI Network, both in event promotion and activism and if/when local media is involved. For example, groups should include the CFI Network logo on certain promotional materials and on their websites or, when giving the group's name, spokespersons should add the suffix, “part of the CFI Network” when appropriate. (E.g.: “Carl Sagan Day is sponsored by Freethought Arizona, part of the CFI Network.”)

Encourage local group members to become members of CFI. Encourage local group members to sign up to receive email notices about CFI news and events and to participate in CFI activism campaigns. If your local group would like to increase its regional effectiveness while also contributing to national and international efforts promoting science, reason, and secular values, please consider becoming part of the CFI Network. For more information, email: grassroots@centerforinquiry.net.

Neil deGrasse Tyson

This just in: Latest Discoveries in the Universe

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

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



Good news / Bad News

Beyond the soap and water

For over 70 years 1922 to 96, the young women of Ireland were subject to the iron law of the church. Any woman or girl found committing sin (or thinking about it) was subject to being sent to the so called Magdaline Laundries, a species of prison or reform school, there to clean laundry from the churches' many institutions and commercial enterprises, unpaid of course, and subject to extremely strict supervision, sometimes for many years. Some died in consequence.

The Irish government is now partially compensating the victims with a payment fund of \$45 million dollars, and state emolliements of many kinds. For its part in this, and many other tragedies inflicted on the Irish people, the catholic church stands in shame and condemnation around the world. [More...](#)

Kovachevich Court undermines the Affordable Healthcare Plan

The US district court of Elizabeth Kovakovich ruled recently that a Largo business could rightfully claim an exemption from having to participate in the plan on the basis that its contraception provisions violated his religious freedom rights. This finding was predicated on the finding that corporations have first amendment religious freedom. Should this ruling be upheld it will create considerable problems as corporate religions will blossom everywhere with religious exemptions to coverage for all kinds of worker's rights. [More...](#)

Democracy for Some

Off the momentum of the Supreme Court's recent string of decisions on gay rights, Pennsylvania state representative Brian Sims (D) from Philadelphia took to the floor of the House on Wednesday, June 26 to voice his support of [marriage equality](#) for gays and lesbians. Sims, the first openly gay PA state representative, was blocked from delivering his remarks by several Republican lawmakers. [More...](#)



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

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

What is Tampa Bay Skeptics?

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

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

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



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

Practical Freethought

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R.O.

Holidays of Special Interest

- **2013** International Year of **Water Cooperation** (UN)
- **July** is National Ice Cream Month (Whew!)
- **2nd** World UFO Day
- **4th.** Independence from the UK, new experiment
- **11th** World Population Day
- **14th** Bastille Day - end monarchy, another experiment
- **15th** Cow Appreciation Day- Go out and give a cow a hug
- **27th** Take Your Pants for a Walk Day



TBCoR Leadership Team 2013

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

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Be Included!

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