

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 10 October 2013 Jim Peterson,

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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar

Rick O'Keefe

Web site

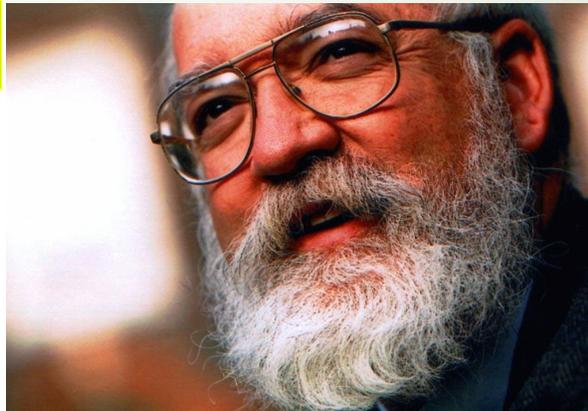
Jim Peterson

Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects

Mark Brandt



Daniel Dennett

One of our most important living philosophers, **Dan Dennett** is best known for his provocative and controversial arguments that human consciousness and free will are the result of physical processes in the brain. He argues that the brain's computational circuitry fools us into thinking we know more than we do, and that what we call consciousness — isn't.

This mind-shifting perspective on the mind itself has distinguished Dennett's career as a philosopher and cognitive scientist. And while the philosophy community has never quite known what to make of Dennett (he defies easy categorization, and refuses to affiliate himself with accepted schools of thought), his computational approach to understanding the brain has made him, as Edge's John Brockman writes, "the philosopher of choice of the AI community."

"It's tempting to say that Dennett has never met a robot he didn't like, and that what he likes most about them is that they are philosophical experiments," Harry Blume wrote in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1998. "To the question of whether machines can attain high-order intelligence, Dennett makes this provocative answer: 'The best reason for believing that robots might some day become conscious is that we human beings are conscious, and we are a sort of robot ourselves.'"

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



The Humanists of Florida Association

presents

FLORIDA FREETHOUGHT 2013
Building a Better Florida Through Diversity
November 2-3, 2013

[FloridaHumanists.org](#)

On November 2nd and 3rd, you can be among the expectant Floridians from all over the state who will be converging on Orlando for the Florida Freethought 2013 Conference.

Speakers include: Various Florida group leaders, an SSA panel with Florida students, **James Randi, Dale McGowan, Dave Silverman, Seth Andrews, Nate Phelps, Jerry Dewitt, Darrel Ray, Sarah Morehead, Jennifer Hancock, Bridgett Crutchfield, Teresa MacBain, Dan Fincke, and Alix Jules.**

Hear the Sunday Keynote by Dale McGowan *The Heart of Humanism*

Humanists have always been generous and compassionate. But until recently, the organized freethought community has been focused mainly on ideas and activism, while our generosity and compassion took place on the individual level, separate from our identity as humanists. A sea change in the movement is now making compassionate humanism a bigger part of what we do together as a community, and in the process changing the way we look at ourselves and our worldview.

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

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



HUMANIST CHARITIES

[Click to connect!](#)

Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – October, 2013 Calendar

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

10-7, 1 st Saturday, 2 PM	CLEARWATER – The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	To get the details: See page 3 http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
10 13, Sunday, 1:30 PM	S TAMPA – Atheists of Florida–Tampa Chapter	Details & to RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/
10-13, Sunday, 7 PM	BRANDON – Brandon Atheists	Skeptics in the Pub RSVP before Friday, Sept 6th noon. http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/
10-21, Monday, 6:30 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD – Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively philosophical discussion. RSVP at Web site : http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
10-19, 3 rd Saturday, 10:30 AM	TAMPA –Town & Country Library Tampa Humanist Association	Topic: see page 5 http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
10-20. Sunday, 5PM	CLEARWATER Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Social Dinner. See page 4 for details. RSVP
10-20 3 rd Sunday, 11AM	BRANDON CFI Sunday Mixer	Lunch & discussion. Click to RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
10-26, 4 th Saturday, 10:30 AM	NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE – Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. RSVP Details: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
10-28, Every last Monday, 6 PM	N. Pinellas Area CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 20!</i> Click here before noon, Oct 26 http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
10 - TBA, see Web site	S. PINELLAS – Humanist film Meetup	Feature film TBA RSVP at: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
10-20, Sunday, 12:30 PM	CLEARWATER – UU Humanists,	Linda Darin of NOW-Tampa will be speaking
09-28, Saturday, 11 AM	SW TAMPA – Tampa Bay Skeptics	Tampa Bay Skeptics Check for activity at Web site http://TampaBaySkeptics.org/
see Web site	BRADENTON - Humanist Families of Tampa	Family outings and other activities. /www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa October: Disney in Orlando. https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/
see Web site	SARASOTA – Humanists of Sarasota Bay Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html	Many events: Details: Web site http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html
Twice Monthly	TAMPA - Café Philo, Philosophical Discussion Group.	See Website : www.philotampa.org for all details.

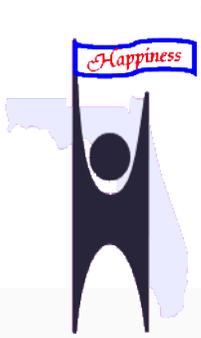


Organizers of these events will be most grateful to all who have the courtesy to RSVP for those events that require it.

Watch for Big COR events coming up!

December 7th - [Winterfest](#) -  Celebration : a potluck at Clearwater UUC

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



The Humanist Society³ of the Suncoast News

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



Volume 21 No. 10 October, 2013

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

Plans are under way for the Readers' Theatre (The Humanist Hams?) to treat the group to their first presentation. This method is essentially an open book dramatic reading. No need to memorize or act out any action, though you may if you wish. Release your inner thespian! Anyone can do it; the more the merrier!

Our October meeting will be a double feature! One is a one act play written by our very own, *Dorothy Wylie*. This touching play is a combination of pathos and comedy; an aging couple facing the wife's onset of Alzheimer's and how they handle it. An appropriate material considering that November is the month dedicated to stamping out this disease.

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

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

If both participants and audience enjoy this, we can produce several sessions a year.



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. As reactionaries in congress vote to cut the budget for food stamps and other key supports, there is increasing hunger here in our community. Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food (before the expiration dates) or checks for TBH. Thanks to *Glenn Paul*, chair

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



Beacon Press is an independent publisher of serious non-fiction and fiction. Our books often change the way readers think about fundamental issues; they promote such values as freedom of speech and thought; diversity, religious pluralism, and anti-racism; and respect for diversity in all areas of life.

Get your copy of *Wrapped in the Flag* at any of the links below, or at the meeting.
[Amazon](#) [Barnes and Noble](#) [Indie Bound](#)

Wrapped in the Flag chronicles the radical right wing world of the 1960s when conspiracy ruled and the John Birch Society made national headlines. The daughter of a John Birch Society leader, Claire introduces us to the extreme ideas of a powerful political fringe group dispensing radical solutions to America's problems.

Birchers fought civil rights, labor unions, environmental protections, Medicare, welfare programs, the United Nations and even water fluoridation. Today, the society continues many of those same campaigns from its national headquarters in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Claire Conner's intimate account—based on records, documents and her firsthand knowledge—takes us deep inside one of the most radical right-wing movements in U.S. history. Moving seamlessly between memoir and history, humor and pain, past and present, *Wrapped in the Flag* serves up keen insight into the impact of extremism on one woman, her family and, if unchecked, on our country.

Please join us for our next free and open discussion.

Saturday, October 5th, at 2 PM:

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

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

Tampa Bay Harvest



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The Movable Feast: the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner

The Moveable Feast for October will be at:

Carmelitas

Sunday October 20th at 5:00PM located at 7705 Ulmerton Rd. at its intersection with Belcher Rd. in Largo.

This restaurant has many fine offerings in the \$11-15 range. It has been named top Mexican restaurant in the area many times.

Please reserve with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com reply by Saturday October 19th.

Hope to see many of you there. Note: Look for possible coupons in your mail for Carmelita's.

Laugh Lines *Why Teachers Drink*

The following questions were set in last year's examination These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds).....and they WILL breed. (scary, ain't it?)

Q. Name the four seasons?

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink A.

Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire

Q. What causes the tides in the oceans?

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election

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

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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, October 19th, 2013, 11:00 PM

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

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

Town & Country Library on, October 19th 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 Value of Skepticism

We will examine what skepticism is and how it can be applied to many practical problems in everyday life, as well as a useful approach to a variety of more abstract ideas. JP.



Matt Cooper is to be awarded with the CFI recognition of Achievement in promoting Humanism and Skepticism in the Tampa Bay area. CFI head, Rick O'Keefe made the announcement at a Tampa Bay freethought meeting on September 29th.

Congratulations Matt!

Life Ring Secular Recovery

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

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

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



~ *Join* ~

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



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

“What the world believes at any given moment is simply the prevailing popular opinion. And as nothing that stands today is either inherently or intrinsically so, all manner of currently held notions have the ability to be changed.”



Atheists of Florida



Atheism sprinting into the future!

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

AoF outreach programs can be found at our [Meetup](#) site. Current newsletters are **available**: Write Athaifle@aol.com. JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#). Our first meeting of every quarter (Jan., April, July, October) is a potluck; the address information is available only to members of our [Meetup](#) since it is usually in a private home.

October 13th is family fun day and potluck for **members only**. Join us to participate.

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

Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts (audio & video) in the offing very soon. Let us know if you wish to participate. We are a resource for those with questions and doubts about the standard religious narrative of life.

At the same time, we bring a human centered ethic to bear in serving our fellow human beings as they struggle to overcome the delusional psychology of years of religious conditioning.

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

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

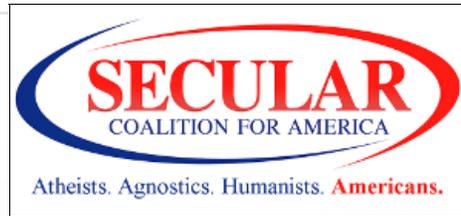


Bank of Wisdom
Electronic publishing to make the world better

6

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

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



National Secular Movement Update

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

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

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



University of South Florida

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

Clearwater UU Humanists

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

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

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

UU Humanists will have their monthly meeting on October 20, Sunday at 12:30PM. Linda Darin of NOW-Tampa will be speaking to the UU Humanists in the Octagon at Unitarian-Universalists of Clearwater on 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater.



Clearwater, Florida



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.

The Florida National Organization for Women (NOW) is in strong opposition to the Personhood Amendment ballot initiative for which the organization Personhood Florida is currently collecting signatures, according to Florida NOW president Donna Slutiak. "This amendment is ridiculous and an insult to women," Slutiak said. "The issue of Personhood would have very far reaching results, and would do more than criminalize abortion; it would also make birth control pills and the IUD illegal in the state of Florida. The amendment states that human life begins at the time when an egg is fertilized, which will also impact in-vitro-fertilization clinics. How would you like your mother's fertilized eggs that are sitting in a clinic freezer to have inheritance rights? Do you want to have to go underground to get your birth control pills?" Florida NOW expects all intelligent people to pledge not to sign this initiative, and to vote against it, if by some fluke it does get on the ballot. Personhood is bad for womanhood."

"...being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead."
Kurt Vonnegut
Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU Supporter,

This year, the United Nations Human Rights Committee will be conducting a review of civil liberties in the United States to verify our compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

People Over Politics

Topics covered will include voting rights, juvenile justice and criminal justice. The ACLU of Florida has been deeply involved in these issues. That's why we're hosting a series of forums on the ICCPR and the human rights issues under review. See our [website](#) for more on this process:



We remember **Thom Foley**, Pinellas County ACLU chapter president; a wonderful human being, who died unexpectedly September 26th 2013.

The **Humanities Institute of USF** is excited to share our Fall 2013 [newsletter and calendar](#) of events. Inside you can read about our incredible lineup for this semester including: An evening lecture by **Lawrence Krauss** on Nov. 12th as part of our



focus on "Science and Society." Krauss is a leading cosmologist and Foundation Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration and Inaugural Director of the Origins Project at Arizona State University. He also costars with Richard Dawkins in the upcoming film, *The Unbelievers*.

Secular Coalition for America President, David Niose Wednesday presented [oral arguments](#) to the Massachusetts Supreme Court, as the attorney for the plaintiff in the case "Doe v. Acton-Boxborough Regional School District." The case challenges a state law that requires daily school-sponsored and teacher-led classroom recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Niose, on behalf of his client, argued that the wording "under God" in the Pledge discriminates against atheists and other nonbelievers, by instilling and defining patriotism according to a god belief.



Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



TBPCC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more. 10/13

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

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

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

Calendar:
Rick O'Keefe

Newsletter:
Jim Peterson

Web site:
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

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

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

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

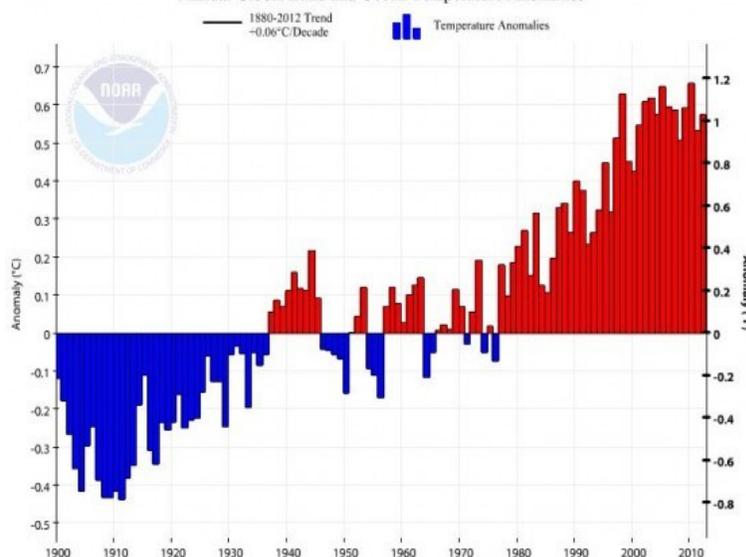
Thus substantive and exciting new activities will be offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

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

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

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

Annual Global Land and Ocean Temperature Anomalies



Urgency builds for action on Climate Change Issues

This graph, from NOAA, plots how global temperatures each year are different from the average, and the steady increase in temperature is plain. The [upcoming IPCC report](#) will also forecast that the globe will continue to warm, alarmingly so, unless we slow and reverse the current pace of global carbon emissions.

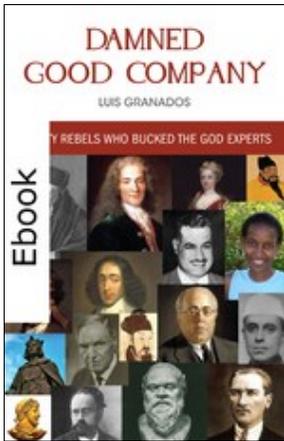
We are coming to the realization that our place in this universe is tenuous, and very much contingent on a happy and unusual set of natural circumstances that allow for an intelligent species like ours to come into being. But it is all too easy to see the limits of our intelligence, as we ignore our looting of the planet's resources and our profligate disruption of the natural systems that brought us into being.

But for our all our wanton indifference to the material basis of our civilization, it is still possible for us to enjoy a decent way of life for all people without inflicting upon ourselves the conditions of our own destruction. Accomplishing this would not preclude an end brought by other sources, but at least we will not be the instrument of our own destruction.

Learn more about these issues. The Post Carbon Council (above) provides many links to fuller understanding. JP



The Humanist Press

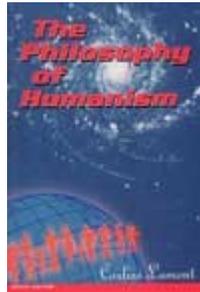


Damned Good Company By Luis Granados

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

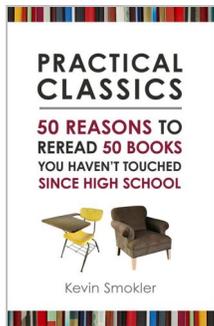


Pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

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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.

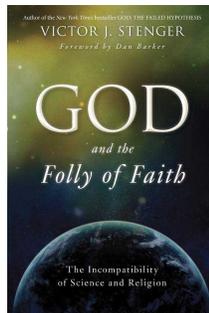
\$18.00 Paperback, 320 pages. [Order here:](#)

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!

Latest books from the

Matt Cooper Humanist Library.

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

TITLE

1. The Expanding Circle
2. In Gods we Trust
3. Why Evolution is True
4. The Second World
5. Denialism
6. The Selfish Gene
7. Democracy Incorporated
8. The Upside Irrationality
9. The End of Growth
10. The God Delusion
11. All That We Share
12. Sex, Time, and Power
13. Sex at Dawn
14. What liberal Media
15. The End of Faith
16. Plan B
17. The Portable Atheist
18. Open Society
19. Non Believer Nation
20. God on Trial
21. Natural Experiments of History
22. The Missionary Position
23. Life Inc.
24. A brief History of Time
25. Breaking the Spell
26. The Philosophy of Humanism
27. The Quotable Atheist
28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In a God. G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About Rest of World. Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
35. What the Dog Saw
36. Sway
37. The Better Angels of our Nature
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded
40. Gaming the Vote
41. Subversion Fable
43. Evolution and the Big Question
44. Why People Believe Weird Things
45. The World is Curved
46. The Snow Ball
47. The Moral Landscape
48. How We Believe
49. Full House
50. The Origins of Political Order

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NEW!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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. Sex & God | Darryl Ray |
| 57. Me of little Faith | Lewis Black |
- And More...

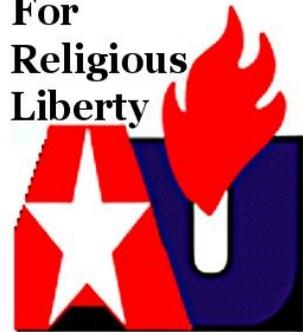
Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

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

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.

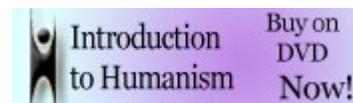
Jennifer is author of several books including; *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP
See much more at: www.Jen-Hancock.com,

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/>

Neuroscience and Humanism



Did you know you are your connectome? Your connectome - according to neuroscientist Sebastian Seung - is how your brain's cells connect and talk to one another. This essentially means that conscious experience is both a product of nature and nurture. See Sebastian's wonderful Ted Talk here: http://ted.com/talks/sebastian_seung.html

The study of neuroscience is of great interest to most humanists. Not just because we are intellectual geeks who love to learn geeky new sciency things. But also because our brains is where most of our thinking happens. (Most because our neurobiology is actually spread out around our bodies and that impacts our thinking as well. Check out this [article on how the vagina and the brain conspire to create consciousness](#)) And yes, I'm betting that pretty much all of you will click on that link. ;D

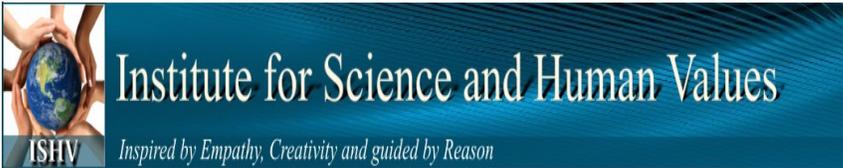
The reason neuroscience is so interesting to me is because it cuts to the heart of what it is to be human. Our ability to think, feel, experience and be conscious is both a function of and dependent on our neurology. If it turns out that consciousness is an illusion, does that mean we have no free will? And if we have no free will, how can a philosophy, like Humanism which is dependent upon us having free will, claim to have anything useful to say about how we should try to behave?

Adam Gopnik of The New Yorker, reviewed several neurology books on this topic -see: http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/books/2013/09/09/130909crbo_books_gopnik). It's a delightful read to catch up on what has been going on and the debates about free will that are occurring within the field of neurology. But I'm mostly referring you to it because Adam concludes that Humanism has nothing to fear from the demystification of the brain: "Humanism not only has survived each of these sequential demystifications; they have made it stronger by demonstrating the power of rational inquiry on which humanism depends. Every time the world becomes less mysterious, nature becomes less frightening, and the power of the mind to grasp reality more sure. A constant reduction of mystery to matter, a belief that we can name natural rules we didn't make—that isn't scientism. That's science."

I don't know about you but I get excited whenever I see someone talking about Humanism in a major magazine especially when the topic is so relevant to our concerns as Humanists.

Enjoy.

Jennifer Hancock



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

If someone asked you today what you wanted more than anything else in life, what would you say to them?

We want not only to explore the good life, but more importantly how to obtain and maintain it. Throughout history there have been all sorts of notions as to how we can achieve the two prime goals in human existence (and the answer most often given to the question above): *Happiness and Inner Peace*.

Can we find this inner Shangri-La through Jesus, Allah, Yahweh, Scientology, Hedonism, Asceticism, Atheism, No-ism? What are the basic structures of joy? Which path shall we take? How can we guide our children? These we believe are the most important questions human kind can attempt to answer. Equally important is how we can become a better role model and teacher for our children in their quest for a better life.

Two major areas will be the foundation for this section: One cerebral and one experiential. The cerebral area will largely come from the rational and scientific base of the Cognitive Behavioral approaches to mental health and well-being. The grandfather of these approaches was Dr. Albert Ellis, a pioneer who broke from the shackles of psychoanalysis and Freud to create the third major movement in Psychology. He called his reason/scientific-based approach Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (or Theory). The experiential area will largely come from studies on mindfulness and from Zen. In a brief but very incomplete sense, Zen is a finger pointing at the human mind and reality. It is the reality of every moment "as it is" -- from the micro to the macro. From the tiniest subatomic particle to Galaxies circulating the Universe. This helps us put our problems and plights in proper perspective. It also humbles us and helps us to see that the only authority that anyone or anything has (including Religion and Science) is ultimately because of the power we give them.

Through combining these two wisdom-based approaches to epistemology comes a sense of Freedom -- a freedom that allows us to pause and choose our actions. When the actions that we take come from a center of good will, empathy, and compassion toward others, we create a morality that can be taught from generation to generation.

When we "react" to others from a set of fixed beliefs, we lose our freedom to choose and we become mired in a world of delusion and illusion becoming like automatons. As a result, our actions often come from ill will, greed, anger, hostility and intolerance. Others who don't hold our views or beliefs become our enemy and immoral behavior based in anger often follows.

Our overall goal is Freedom. Freeing the mind of the habits that create suffering and disturbance.

We welcome your interest and involvement at the ISHV. If you would like to make a comment, complaint, or suggestion, or if you would like to present an article for possible consideration to Rational Living please contact Vincent E. Parr, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, at 2502 N. Rocky Point Dr. Suite 1010, Tampa, Florida 33607-1406; email: dparr11@verizon.net.

• [AHLC News](#)

[Use of Christian University's Chapel for Public Elementary School Graduation Results in Lawsuit](#)

September 11, 2013 – The AHLC has filed suit in US District Court to stop a South Carolina public elementary school from continuing to hold graduation ceremonies in a Christian university's chapel.

[Lawsuit Against "Under God" Heard By Massachusetts High Court](#)

September 4, 2013 – The AHLC represents a Massachusetts family as they object to the required daily assertion in public schools via the Pledge of Allegiance that the nation is "under God."

[Humanists Challenge Forced "So Help Me God" in Air Force Oath](#)

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

[Naval Academy Refuses Use of Chapel for Non-Christian Weddings](#)

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

Find out more about end of life issues.

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

<http://hemlockflorida.org/index.htm> or www.compassionandchoices.org




CFI & Community Outreach By *Rick O'Keefe*

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



Rick O'Keefe

CFI Tampa Bay Member Completes Science and the Public Master's Program, Publishes Thesis

One of the most unique and instrumental features of CFI is its educational programs and resources. For instance, CFI partners with the Graduate School of Education of the University at Buffalo (UB) to offer the accredited Ed.M. program in Science and the Public. Through this online degree program, students examine the latest findings and techniques in science and technology and explore the broader philosophical, social, and cultural implications of the scientific outlook. One of our CFI Tampa Bay members, Jason Rodriguez, recently graduated from the Science and the Public program. When asked about his experience in the program, Jason stated, "The Science and the Public program is a truly unique graduate education experience. For anyone who is interested in science, the scientific method, critical thinking, current issues in science and technology, philosophy of science, and science policy, this is the degree for you. It's not only ideal for those who appreciate and advocate for science; it provides relevant, real-world tools for becoming a well-informed citizen and a better human being." As part of the program's culminating project, Jason completed a master's thesis entitled "**American Science Advocacy Organizations: Examining Their Strategies and Engagements with Religion.**" In August, he successfully defended his thesis and had it approved for publication. Provided below is a summary of his thesis on this fascinating and controversial topic:

"The Science and the Public program is a truly unique graduate education experience...It's not only ideal for those who appreciate and advocate for science; it provides relevant, real-world tools for becoming a well-informed citizen and a better human being."

Over the past several decades, science advocacy organizations have increasingly participated in discussions of the relationship between science and religion to the public, mainly to counteract the resurgence of anti-evolution activities across the country, to address misconceptions and misunderstandings about science and religion, and to help make science more palatable and less threatening to religious believers. These engagements with religion have primarily involved four organizations: the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the National Center for Science Education (NCSE), and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (SNMNH). In their engagements with religion, each of these organizations has simultaneously employed two distinct lines of operation: (1) defending science against anti-science religions and movements and (2) engaging science-friendly religions and the religious public. These lines of operation are driven by key objectives and supported by specific strategies and tactics to achieve those objectives. Science advocacy organizations' approaches to discussing science and religion have generated considerable controversy. Many claim that their depictions of science and religion and their religious outreach initiatives are constructive and worthwhile, while others claim that they are inappropriately weighing in on philosophical matters and unnecessarily appeasing religious people. The research for this project includes interviews with Francisco Ayala, Connie Bertka, Daniel Dennett, Barbara Forrest, Jim Miller, Ken Miller, Chris Mooney, P. Z. Myers, Massimo Pigliucci, Eugenie Scott, and Jennifer Wiseman. Based on an analysis of the research collected, this paper also provides key findings and recommendations for science advocacy organizations to consider for their ongoing and future engagements with religion.

If you're interested in reading the thesis, please contact Jason directly at jtrodrig@buffalo.edu.



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**.

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**?



Calendar of Upcoming main events

October 7: Bridget Gaudett, Executive Director of the Humanists of Florida Association—**What's happening in Florida and where are we headed?**

November 4: Charles Shugg, Brigadier General, USAF, Retired, COO Sylint Group--**Understanding cyberspace and its implications for society**

December 2: Barbara Zdrevecky, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood—**The status of women's reproductive rights**

January 6: Mote Marine Presentation

February 3: Jeremy Wallace, Political Correspondent for the Sarasota Herald Tribune—**Update on the legislative session and the bills before it**

March 3: Dr. Douglas Chismar, Professor, Ringling College of Art and Design—**Dangerous Ideas**

April 7: Humanist Panel—Composed of members from HUSBAY regarding the Nature of Humanism.

For more detailed information, see the HusBay website: <http://sarasota.humanists.net/index.htm>



DR. JULIA F. IRWIN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, HISTORY
Making the World Safe:
The American Red Cross and a Nation's Humanitarian Awakening

As the American Century dawned, more and more Americans saw the need to engage in world affairs and to make the world a safer place—not by military action but through humanitarian aid. It was a time perfectly suited for the rise of the American Red Cross. In her book, Irwin traces the ARC's history from its founding in 1881 by Clara Barton, to its rise as the government's official voluntary aid agency. Equally important, Irwin shows that the story of the Red Cross is a story of how Americans first began to see foreign aid as a key element in their relations with the world.

If reasonable accommodations for disability are required, please call (813) 974-3657. Metered parking available in Lot 29B and the Collins Blvd. Garage.

**WEDNESDAY
OCT. 2ND
3:30pm
Grace Allen Room
(Library)**

Refreshments served at 3:00pm.
Enjoy a glass of wine and learn about groundbreaking USF research.

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www.humanities-institute.usf.edu

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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!



<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)
October is Awareness Month

- 2nd [National Custodial Worker Day](#)
- 5th. [World Teacher's Day](#)
- 9th. [Curious Events Day](#)
- 11th [Take your Teddy Bear to Work Day](#)
- 13th [International Skeptics Day](#)
- 22nd [National Nut Day](#)
- 24th [United Nations Day](#)
- 28th [Make a Difference 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.