

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason



Freethought News

Vol. 7 No. 2, February, 2018 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

Still some seats available for Darwin Day, next February 3rd:

The Evolution of Happiness



What's Inside?

Suncoast Humanist Soc	2*
Tampa Humanists	4*
Post Carbon Council	5*
CFI Tampa Bay	6*
Tampa Bay Skeptics	9*
Books/Cooper Library	10
Spkr biographies	11
Florida Atheists	12*
Tampa Bay Thinkers	13
TB Technology Ctr	13
Humanist Families	13*
Military Atheists	13*
Humanistic Judaism	13
USF Freethinkers	13
ACLU Tampa Bay	14
Inst For Sci & Hum	14*
Secular Coalition	14
UU Humanists	14
Coalition of Reason	15
Unified Calendar	16
Astronomy clubs	05
* TB-CoR member	



Dr. Phil Zuckerman

TBCoR presents our Darwin day program on February 3rd 2018. Be there!



These three fine authors have each contributed to the cause of humanity, each building unique bridges to improve the human condition as we enlarge individual human potential to meet the responsibilities we all have to ensure our common success. [See Page 11](#) for more on them.

Phil Zuckerman is a renowned sociologist whose researches into the mechanisms in society that produce a condition of happiness, are well respected, and an important resource for all who are concerned with improving human life. **Jennifer Hancock** has made a career of introducing the practical implementation of Humanist principles in everyday life. She has written extensively on the subject of happiness. [See Page 9](#)



Ryan Cragun, is a sociologist at the University of Tampa whose several books have provided important insights into the role and function of religion.

The event will be held on Saturday, February 3rd with doors open at 9:30 AM and will end before 3 PM in the Octagon of the UU Congregation in Clearwater at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater. Tickets are on sale now at \$20 ea. from our constituent organizations, (\$5 for those with student ID's), or can be ordered at our website:

www.tampabaycor.net

The avoidance of suffering and the desire for happiness, no matter how defined are a constant stimulus to human activity, and a profound concern within each human life. Here is your opportunity to develop more insight.

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar

[Rick O'Keefe](#)

Web site

Jim Peterson

Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects

Mark Brandt & Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:

www.tampabaycor.net

See the full roster of the Leadership board on Page 15.

This publication online at:

www.tampabaycor.net

Wedding, Child naming, Memorial?

Florida has a large number of celebrants who are specially trained to solemnize the important life transitions in the Humanist way. <http://thehumanistsociety.org/celebrants/map/#FL>

Freethought Radio on the air.

Atheists of Florida produces the *Atheist Forum*, every Sunday, from 7 to 8 pm. The broadcast is available on WTAN-1340 and on the internet at TanTalk1340.com Listeners can call 727-441-3000, call-in questions and comments. See page 12 for more.



The Humanist Society 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](#), & [ASHS](#). Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

This month only:

Please join us to attend the annual Darwin Day event at the Octagon.

This year:

“The Evolution of Happiness”

The cost of this program, sponsored by the Coalition of Reason, is \$20 per person.

See the front page of this news letter for more information.

We will resume our regular schedule at the Dunedin library on March 3rd.

Epicurus, Lucretius, and Happiness

As the annals of history have it, in the sixth century Emperor Justinian had all the schools of philosophy that competed with Christianity finally closed. This was the last we heard of the Epicurean School, whose tradition had remained culturally vibrant for seven centuries. Epicurus had been among the first to propose the atom—2,300 years ago—the social contract as a foundation for the rule of law, and the possibility of an empirical process of pursuit of happiness: a science of happiness. These progressive schools were oases of tranquility, reason and pleasure known as Gardens, where the ideals of civilized friendship flourished and men, women and even

slaves engaged in philosophical discourse as equals.

In his *Principal Doctrines 11-12*, Epicurus argued for the study of science as a way to emancipate ourselves from irrational fears. For naturalists who don't believe in gods or spirits, the first two negative statements may be translated as 'Do not fear chance or blind luck, for it is pointless to battle that which we have no control over. It generates unnecessary suffering'.

Roman Epicurean poet Lucretius, in his *De Rerum Natura*, dedicates long portions of the philosophical poem to explaining how natural phenomena such as lightning and the movements of heavenly bodies are not the work of the Gods and that fear of the Gods is inconsistent with civilized life. Since he was unable in those days to produce a fully scientific theory to explain all these phenomena, he provided several possible theories for many of them without officially endorsing one, and humbly acknowledged that future thinkers would prove the main points of his naturalist and scientific cosmology, which they eventually did. And so we can say that his basic attitude was a sound one, and also that he respected our intelligence enough to not exhibit arrogance and certainty where he did not have conclusive theories. He allowed time to prove him right ... and sincere.

Volume 31 No. 1 January, 2018

It's that time of the year again!!
(Ho, hoho!)

Join or renew
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Annual Dues

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



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

If you have questions concerning your dues or status, contact our treasurer,
marios_psomas@hotmail.com

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

Name: _____

Address –if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: * _____

E-mail: _____
(Privacy respected)

Send check made out to:

“Marios Psomas”

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

Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
1013 Connecticut Rd
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

*= optional



Tampa Bay Harvest

Food: the first kindness & the measure of our Hospitality.
Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. Money is more effective than cans and boxes to get the most benefit to the greatest number of people. But we can also use personal toiletries. Thanks to **Jordan Williams**. **We need volunteers!** Write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.

Be with us then at

9:30 AM in the Octagon of the UU Congregation in Clearwater at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.

Tickets are on sale now at \$20 ea.





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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The Movable Feast

the Humanist Society's monthly social Dinner

Join us on Sunday, February 18th.
at 5 O'clock for esoteric cuisine from the
occident and good company too, at:

Chili's Restaurant

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

5430 E Bay Dr, Largo, FL 33771

Phone: (727) 539-8596

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

Laugh Lines NAVAL WARNING 2-18

What follows is a transcript of the actual radio conversation between a U. S. Naval ship and Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland after radar revealed an imminent collision.

Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid collision.

Americans: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid collision.

Canadians: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a U.S. Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER U.S.S. LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH. I SAY AGAIN, THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

Canadians: We are a lighthouse. Your call.

Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

Jay Alexander,
Steve Brown,
Lois Fries, Secretary
Dave Kovar,
Brad Perryman Vice Pres.
Jim Peterson, President
Frank Prahl,
Marios Psomas, Treasurer
Jordan Williams.

Emeritus members: Terry Eckstein, Dr. Jon Green, Mark Kligman, Dr. Jack Robinson, Dec. Jerry Moore, Anita Garcia, Mark Winterbottom, Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn Paul, Don Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard, Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler

~*~*~*~*~

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

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

Need Psychological Counseling?

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

[Cognitive Neurosciences
Inc.](#)

Or call:
Lynda Gurvitz,
(727) 725-8820

Patricia Walters,
(813) 452-6547



Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

North Tampa Public Library

8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)

January 20th, 11 AM

Leaders: *Lucas Hopegood & Jim Peterson*

Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, & AHA
affiliate.



This month's meeting is deferred in favor of the Annual Darwin Day event in Clearwater. See page 1.

As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above & within the level of conscious recognition. Using the instruments of reason, & critical thinking, we strive to be at one in understanding both the world that made us, & the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully & critically dissects a new intersection of mind & matter. Be part of it.

At present, we are a small, intimate group meeting in a neighborhood library. But we are ambitious, and hope to grow. Ideally, such small discussion groups should appear in every neighborhood. The need is as great as the potential. What is required is a few longtime humanists willing to take on the relatively small effort to secure a library meeting room once a month, post a few notices here and there (including this newsletter), and show up to lead a discussion, share a little knowledge; give something to the future.

As Isaac Asimov, former AHA president, is quoted as saying, "Since you can't take it with you, send it on ahead." Humanism is as much in need of good followership as it is of effective leadership. Now is the time to do your part in either category. We can help.

JP

Learn more about the association at: <http://tampahumanist.com/>



TBS's "\$1,000 Challenge"

Since 1989 TBS has been offering \$1,000 to anyone able to demonstrate any paranormal phenomenon under mutually agreed-upon observing conditions. If you believe that you are able to do so, please **contact TBS**.

William A. Blake III of Orlando attempted to demonstrate telepathy in March 2008. [\[Full story\]](#)

Igor Simchanko, in the former Soviet republic of Belarus, attempted to predict Florida Lottery results in 2006. [\[Full story\]](#)

From his home in Prattville, Alabama, Ron Pearce took the TBS "\$1,000 Challenge" by e-mail and phone in 2005, claiming the ability to diagnose medical conditions remotely. [\[Full story\]](#)

Bill Pierce, a dowser of Polaroid photographs, first took the TBS "\$1,000 Challenge" in 2000. [\[Full story\]](#) And he was retested in 2002. [\[Full story\]](#)

Scott C. Frank of Homosassa, Florida, tried to win the TBS "\$1,000 Challenge" at the Winter 2001-02 TBS quarterly meeting. [\[Full story\]](#)

And so it went. TBS has taken its "\$1,000 Challenge" to TV a number of times. Read the details of our [1993](#) and [1994](#) TV challenges, as recounted in *TBS Report*.

Humanist Quotes

2/18

Sam Harris



"It is taboo in our society to criticize a person's religious faith... these taboos are offensive, deeply unreasonable, but worse than that, they are getting people killed. This is really my concern. My concern is that our religions, the diversity of our religious doctrines, is going to get us killed. I'm worried that our religious discourse- our religious beliefs are ultimately incompatible with civilization."

— *Sam Harris*



The Crafty Freethinker ... Yorkshire lass born and bred, currently living in the Sunshine State. Maker of fine Secular Jewelry, and lifelong freethinker, my work can be seen by clicking on the image at left.



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

The following quotes are from David W. Orr's 2016 book, *Dangerous Years: Climate Change, the Long Emergency, and the Way Forward*.

"If humanity is to have a better future it will be a more "empathic civilization," one better balanced between our most competitive, hard-driving selves and our most harmonious, altruistic traits; one that embraces the yin-yang poles of behavior. It must be a change sufficiently global to bridge the chasms of ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality, and politics and deep enough to shift perceptions, behaviors, and values. The change must enable people to grow from a "having" orientation to a "being" orientation to the world. It must deepen our appreciation, affiliation, and competence with the natural world, albeit a natural world undergoing accelerating changes.

I do not think, however, that we can simply will ourselves to that empathic new world. The transition will result from social movements, activism, education, and political changes. But there is always an X-factor, an inexplicable process of metanoia, a word meaning "penitence; a reorientation of one's way of life; spiritual conversion." It is a change of inner sight. "I once was blind, but now I see" as the former slave trader John Newton wrote in the hymn "Amazing Grace." Metanoia is liberation from bondage—physical, mental, emotional—a total change of perspective."

"And there will be no *Deus ex machina*, or cavalry, or invisible hand, or miracle technological breakthrough that will rescue us in the nick of time. It will be up to us to change the odds and the outcomes on our own. "

"Nearly everything on Earth behaves or works differently at higher temperatures. Ecologies collapse, forests burn, metals expand, concrete runways buckle, rivers dry up, cooling towers fail, and people curse, kill, and terrorize more easily. Climate deniers . . . are doomed to roughly the same status as, say, members of the Flat Earth Society. "

"We would be embarrassed to graduate students who could neither read nor count. We should be mortified, then, to graduate students who are ecologically illiterate—clueless about the basics of ecology,

energetics, systems dynamics—the bedrock conditions for civilization and human life."

"We need people who make charity and civility the norm. We need more parks, farmers' markets, bike trails, baseball teams, book groups, poetry readings, good coffee, conviviality, practical competence, and communities where the word "neighbor" is a verb, not a noun. We need people who know and love this place and see it whole and see it for what it can be. "

This gripping, deeply thoughtful book considers future of civilization in the light of what we know about climate change and related threats. David Orr, an award-winning, internationally recognized leader in the field of sustainability and environmental education, pulls no punches: even with the Paris Agreement of 2015, Earth systems will not reach a new equilibrium for centuries. Earth is becoming a different planet—more threadbare and less biologically diverse, with more acidic oceans and a hotter, more capricious climate. Furthermore, technology will not solve complex problems of sustainability.

Yet we are not fated to destroy the Earth, Orr insists. He imagines sustainability as a quest and a transition built upon robust and durable democratic and economic institutions, as well as changes in heart and mindset. The transition, he writes, is beginning from the bottom up in communities and neighborhoods. He lays out specific principles and priorities to guide us toward enduring harmony between human and natural systems.

Order from [Amazon](#) , or from your local bookstore.

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc.

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



For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members & the public. For additional information send your emails to: spaceaminer@gmail.com

Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November & December when it is on the third Friday) at the Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL,

at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)

M.A.R.S. – Tampa Astronomy Club

Welcome to the [Museum Astronomical Resource Society](#), also known as the M.A.R.S. astronomy club. M.A.R.S. is sponsored by the [Museum of Science & Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League & Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news & astronomical information to our membership & to the public.

Whether you are new to astronomy & curious about how to experience it, or a seasoned veteran looking for an active club to spend observation time with. We invite you to attend a meetings as our honored guest.

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

Details & RSVP:

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



The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, & humanist values. Since 2002, our all-volunteer chapter has served West Central Florida. Won't you support us? [Join our community today.](#)



*Rick O'Keefe,
Coordinator*

Book: ENGINES OF LIBERTY: HOW CITIZEN MOVEMENTS SUCCEED

From ACLU's national legal director, this is an important guidebook for anyone seeking social change, as well as a deeper understanding of how our Constitution actually works. It examines how citizens succeeded in major constitutional reform in a range of areas such as gun rights, human rights in the war on terror, and same-sex marriage.

In an age of executive overreach, what role do American citizens have in safeguarding our Constitution and defending liberty? Must we rely on the federal courts, and the Supreme Court above all, to protect our rights? In *Engines of Liberty*, the esteemed legal scholar David Cole argues that we all have a part to play in the grand civic dramas of our era--and in a revised introduction and conclusion, he proposes specific tactics for fighting Donald Trump's policies.

<https://shop.aclu.org/product/ACLU-Engines-of-Liberty-revised>

Christian Home-School Advocate: Kids Have “No Fundamental Right” to an Education

The California couple that allegedly [held captive](#) their 13 home-schooled children has provoked national debate about home-schooling regulations.

Smith's problem with “the state” taking charge of education is that it would un-brainwash kids by teaching them *real* science (for example) and create an environment for kids from different backgrounds to socialize with each other. That means impressionable children may hang out with non-Christians, or Christians from other denominations, or (gasp) people with no religion at all. If the fear is that giving kids more education, or introducing critical thinking into their brains, or exposing them to people from different backgrounds may cause them to “stumble” from their parents' teachings, then maybe the problem is with those parents and not the schools.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2DCreoT>

“Significant loss of neurons is a normal part of ageing” and other brain cell myths

By [Christian Jarrett](#)
(@Psych_Writer)

Basic facts about the brain are a key part of many introductory psychology courses, including information about brain cells. For instance, for years, students (and the public) have been taught that, thanks to the ageing process, the older we get, the more brain cells we lose. But as outlined in a [new review](#) in the *Journal of Chemical Neuroanatomy* by Christopher von Bartheld at the University of Nevada, many established facts about brain cells (like the idea we lose lots of them as we get older) have been shown by modern techniques to be misconceptions. Taken mostly from the review, here are four myths about brain cells, plus one unresolved issue.

Read the rest here:
[Myths and truths about the cellular composition of the human brain: A review of influential concepts](#)

From weekly book clubs and dinner socials to major lectures with prominent speakers, CFI's grassroots groups host dozens of activities every month. For monthly branch activities, look for a group near you in these lists of [U.S.](#) and [international](#) CFI Branches, and then check out their individual event calendars.



Did your CFI membership lapse? Find out –please send me an email so I can check for you. Include your current phone & address with ZIP+4, please. I'll look it up & let you know.

Cordially,
Rick
tampa@CenterForInquiry.net



16
years in
Florida



RSVP: BRANDON: Thank Goodness for Godless Friday Nights! (Skeptics in the Pub)

Carl Hominid has been conducting not only the monthly (RSVP) **CFI Sunday Skeptics in Brandon** lunch & discussion. Carl has started a Friday night CFI Skeptics in the Pub gathering for those who prefer to wind down for the weekend. Next chance to share your views with our friendly & rapidly growing group of freethinkers: *Friday, February 2, 2018*

List of Fake News Websites: Before you get too excited about an item you want to share or comment about, make sure the social media item is legit.

The list: <http://bit.ly/2vvrXbb>

Support CFI Tampa Bay—Join Us Now!

Center for Inquiry is a 501(c)3 Educational Non-Profit. Memberships & donations are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

When you become a **member** or make a **donation**, you become part of a worldwide movement of humanists, skeptics, atheists, & freethinkers, all working together to give voice to our values. Thank you! http://bit.ly/CFI-TampaBay_Support_Us

For more information about CFI Tampa Bay, contact branch coordinator Rick O’Keefe at tampa@centerforinquiry.net. To learn about making a special donation, talk with Martina Fern, V.P. for Philanthropy, mfern@centerforinquiry.net (716) 636-4869 ext. 426, (800) 818-7071 ext. 426

University of South Florida Humanities Institute

For engaging speakers & socials, check the calendar at <http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities>

Select lectures are available on YouTube.



BE ONE OF US

CFI’s all new “Point of Inquiry” Podcast

The flagship podcast of the Center for Inquiry is beginning a brand new chapter!

You can subscribe to [Point of Inquiry](#) in your podcast app of choice, and if you’re already a subscriber, well, *don’t go anywhere!*

Clearing Up the Calorie: The Science of Nutrition, with Marion Nestle Host: Lindsay Beyerstein

When over one-third of American adults are obese, it’s no wonder that our culture is deluged with fad diets & alleged miracle supplements. Everyone is looking for the easiest way to obtain & maintain health but it’s no small task in the midst of a whirlwind of conflicting information. & what the heck is a calorie anyway? It may be that the easiest fix is to look at what science tells us about the ki

Go here for the rest: <http://www.pointofinquiry.org/>

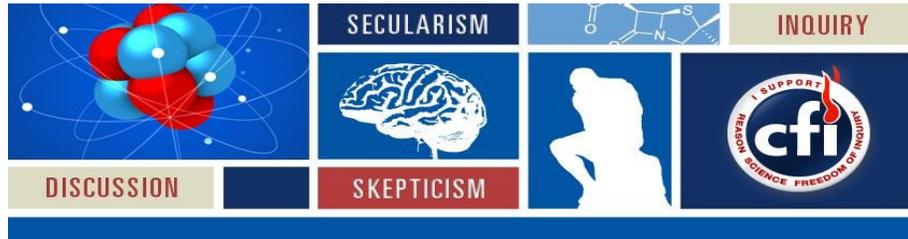
**POINT OF
INQUIRY**
WITH **NORA HURLEY
PAUL FIDALGO**

“The growth of our science & education will be enriched by new knowledge of our universe & environment, by new techniques of learning & mapping & observation, by new tools & computers for industry, medicine, the home as well as the school.” John F. Kennedy

*Non-participation is
a negative personal choice.*

Click below

JOIN NOW



FEMA Reverses Policy - Churches Now Eligible For Disaster Relief

January 5, 2018 by [Michael Stone](#) Read the full article here: <http://bit.ly/2D4hggV>

They don't even pay taxes but churches will now receive taxpayer money after FEMA reverses a long established policy in order to fund the rebuilding of churches after natural disasters.

Earlier this week the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [announced](#) that:

private nonprofit houses of worship are now eligible for disaster assistance as community centers, without regard to their secular or religious nature. These changes are effective for disasters declared on or after August 23, 2017 and for applications for assistance that were pending with FEMA as of August 23, 2017, including applications on first- or second-level appeal, that as of today have not yet been resolved by FEMA.

The policy change comes in response to [two lawsuits](#) brought by three Texas churches and two Florida synagogues after Hurricane Harvey.

In a previous report, [Reuters](#) noted that the Texas churches were hoping that an earlier decision, *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia Inc v. Comer*, would help their case. In that decision the U.S. Supreme Court [ruled](#) that taxpayer-funded grants for playgrounds available to nonprofits under a state program could not be denied to a school run by a church.

However, that decision was about a playground, which the court ruled had a secular purpose. This new policy shift from FEMA ignores that significant distinction.

In her important and powerful dissent in the *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Comer* case, Justice Sonia Sotomayor [declared](#): **“If this separation means anything, it means that the government cannot tax its citizens and turn that money over to houses of worship.”**

Sotomayor was correct. The reason churches were excluded from receiving taxpayer supported disaster relief funds is because of the separation of church and state as outlined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which prohibits the state from funding or supporting any church.

The new policy from FEMA abandons the U.S. Constitution, and moves the nation closer to theocracy.

Commenting on the new announcement from FEMA, Larry T. Decker, Executive Director of the [Secular Coalition for America](#), said: *“A government that truly values religious freedom can never be in the business of building churches. Houses of worship already have access to funds that reimburse them for their sheltering and feeding operations during natural disasters. This new policy crosses a clear constitutional line by using federal dollars to repair and rebuild facilities primarily used for religious purposes. The principle of religious freedom, protected by the First Amendment, guarantees all Americans the right to decide for themselves what religious institutions, if any, they support with their money. Our hearts go out to all those impacted by natural disasters, but the wall of separation between church and state must endure through the best and worst of times.”*

FEMA's new policy extends far beyond the boundaries clearly stipulated in the *Trinity Lutheran* case. While we were deeply troubled by the Court's decision in that case, their ruling did specify that *Trinity Lutheran* was eligible to receive a public grant for its playground because it was an ostensibly secular part of the church. FEMA's new guidelines explicitly disregard this condition. It is, frankly, appalling but unsurprising to see the religious right exploiting natural disasters to justify using FEMA like an ATM.

Alison Gill, legal and policy director of [American Atheists](#), said: *“It is shameful that the Trump Administration would misapply federal law in order to justify giving disaster relief funding to religious organizations, rather than to people and communities. This is a jaw-dropping abrogation of the government's obligation to protect taxpayers from being forced to directly fund religious activities with their tax dollars. This illegal change in policy would, for the purpose of disaster relief, deem religious worship an essential government-type service.”*

“FEMA should focus on providing relief to the individuals and local governments affected by natural disasters, not giving special handouts to churches and houses of worship to perform religious activities. That is a blatantly unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment.”

In response to the FEMA decision, [Freedom From Religion Foundation](#) issued the following action request:

“Please take action to let FEMA know that allowing churches to receive taxpayer dollars is an assault on the religious liberty of American citizens. Here's how you can help:

Call FEMA's customer service at 1 (800) 621-3362 or [fill out its contact form](#).

Call the White House switchboard at 202-456-1414 or [email the president](#).

Tweet at FEMA's Director William Brock Long, [@FEMA_Brock](#), or at the handle [@fema](#).

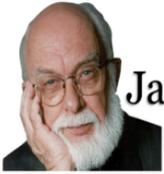
Use social media posts or write letters to your local papers to spread the word about this assault on religious freedom.”

Bottom line: In an unconstitutional and clear violation of the separation of church and state, FEMA will now use taxpayer money to fund

READ THIS: CFI's local [Meetup](#) makes it easy to view & [RSVP](#) to our activities & some affiliated events. The value to us of your joining our Meetup is that we need to know how many folks expect to attend an activity. Some programs are limited in seating; some require ordering books, etc.; some are open only to paid-up CFI members; & some require prepayment.



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



James Randi Educational Foundation

Happiness Through Humanism

By Jennifer Hancock

Excerpts: Humanist Marriage Respect and Problem Solving inside marriage



I am obviously a Humanist. My husband identifies as a Humanist too. We have been married for 17 years now. Still happily married. What is the secret to our success. Respect and problem solving.

I truly respect my husband. He is a wonderful person. Creative, caring, compassionate, responsible, kind, intelligent, interesting and supportive. It is very easy to forget all that when we are problem solving though.

Marriage is a partnership. The two people work together to secure food and housing and health care and if they have kids, to help raise and take care of and support the individuals in their family unit – however that is defined and however extended that family unit is.

This is a long winded way of saying – marriages require a lot of problem solving. All the time. Sometimes, we have disagreements on how best to solve our problems. Sometimes those disagreements are minor – like what color to paint the walls. Other times they are more pressing, like who is going to take out the trash or make sure the kid is picked up from whatever activity they are at.

Respect for the other person as a fully functional intelligent human being, helps us navigate those disagreements so that we engage in cooperative problem solving and don't devolve into arguments. People are often astonished that my husband and I rarely argue. It happens every once in a while. But mostly, we just enter problem solving mode and respect each other's ideas and suggestions. I guess that's what comes with being married for 17+ years.

What I am sure of is that IF I didn't respect him enough to value his opinion, he would have lost respect for me ages ago. Respect and problem solving – lead to a happy marriage. In my case anyway.

Learn more about how to integrate compassion and your coping skills so that you improve your interpersonal relationships with [Living Made Simpler - the course](#) .

Recent Articles:

Is a Humanist an Atheist?

A Rational Minimum Wage Proposal

Don't Take it Personally

Accepting Reality

Effective Communication

Free Course: " Science Based Medicine"

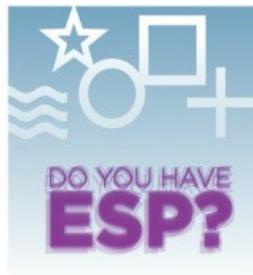
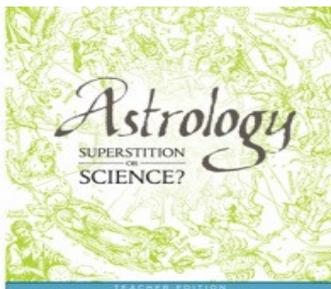
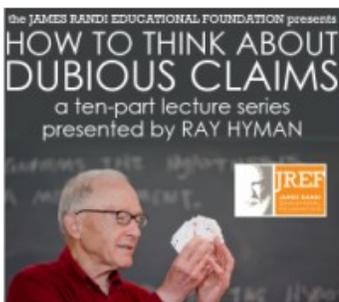
by Harriet Hall, MD - The SkepDoc

The JREF is pleased to announce the availability of a video lecture series on Science Based Medicine by Harriet Hall.

James Randi said: "It has never failed. Every time my path crosses that of Dr. Harriet Hall, I'm encouraged, enlightened, and informed just a bit more, and my dedication to skepticism is stronger. I urge you to "drop in" on this remarkable lady and learn her opinions and her educated findings about all sorts of medical claims. But be prepared for possible surprises..."

The course is available through our [Educational Module Page](#) or directly on [YouTube](#).

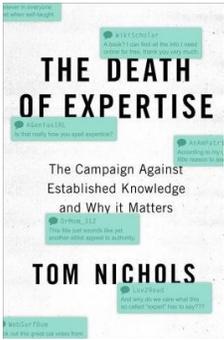
Other free courses provided by JREF <http://bit.ly/2hCkBZZ>



As Richard Feynman said, "science is the belief in the ignorance of experts."

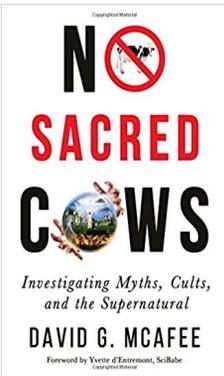
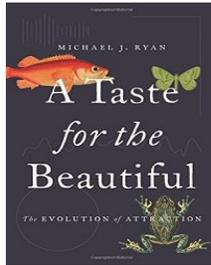
Recommended Reading

Click on the book's **image** for more info



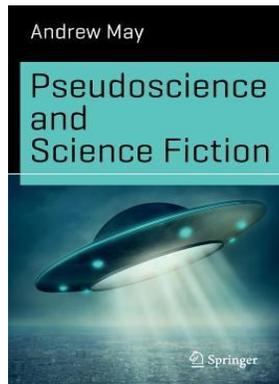
Why does “My ignorance + the Internet = your professional expertise”? “A cult of anti-expertise sentiment has coincided with anti-intellectualism, resulting in massively viral yet poorly informed debates ranging from the anti-vaccination movement to attacks on GMOs. This surge in intellectual egalitarianism has altered the landscape of debates—all voices are equal, & “fact” is a subjective term.”

Read the astonishing story of how the female brain drives the evolution of beauty in animals & humans in Dr. Michael Ryan’s new book. Vividly written & filled with fascinating stories, *A Taste for the Beautiful* will change how you think about beauty & attraction.



“McAfee's newest book should be on every skeptic's bookshelf, & on every believer's, too. It is a thorough treatment of a number of topics that inspire undue credulity—some much more harmful than others—but all requiring skepticism. Having interviewed hundreds of authors on these sorts of subjects over the years, & having read all of their books, I enthusiastically recommend *No Sacred Cows*.” —D.J. Grothe

May takes us on a tour of the main themes of pseudoscience, always tying back to the links with science fiction. You'll find familiar science fiction films, such as *Close Encounters* (ripe with pseudoscience concepts), blockbuster books from fiction (the works of Dan Brown) and supposed non-fiction (*Chariots of the Gods*, for example) alongside obscure but fascinating early pulp works,



Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought goodies: Pins, jewelry, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc.
<http://evolvefish.com/> To access more Freethought history & perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prah's Freethought Library. Contact fprah@verizon.net

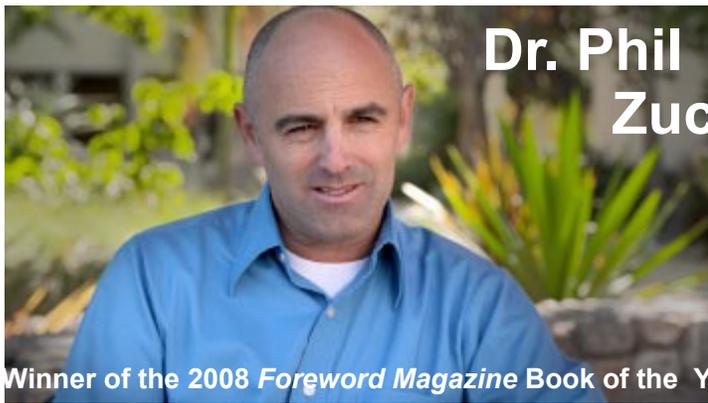
The Matt Cooper

Humanist Lending 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!**
Donations appreciated.

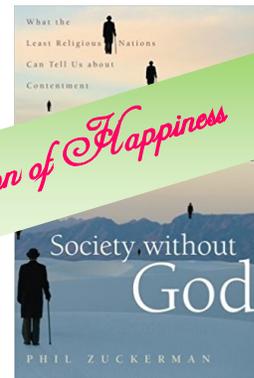
#	TITLE	AUTHOR
		New ←
80.	An Atheist Stanger	Herb Silverman
81.	Candidate without a prayer	Herb Silverman
1.	The Expanding Circle	Peter Singer
2.	In Gods we Trust	Scott Atran
3.	Why Evolution is True	Jerry Coyne
4.	The Second World	Panag Khanna
5.	Denialism	Michael Specter
6.	The Selfish Gene	Richard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

* Essential works

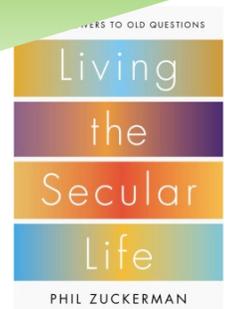


**Dr. Phil
Zuckerman**

Winner of the 2008 *Foreword Magazine* Book of the Year Award



The Evolution of Happiness



Before he began his recent travels, it seemed to Phil Zuckerman as if humans all over the globe were “getting religion”—praising deities, performing holy rites, and soberly defending the world from sin. But most residents of Denmark and Sweden, he found, don’t worship any god at all, don’t pray, and don’t give much credence to religious dogma of any kind. Instead of being bastions of sin and corruption, however, as the Christian Right has suggested a godless society would be, these countries are filled with residents who score at the very top of the “happiness index” and enjoy their healthy societies, which boast some of the lowest rates of violent crime in the world (along with some of the lowest levels of corruption), excellent educational systems, strong economies, well-supported arts, free health care, egalitarian social policies, outstanding bike paths, and great beer.

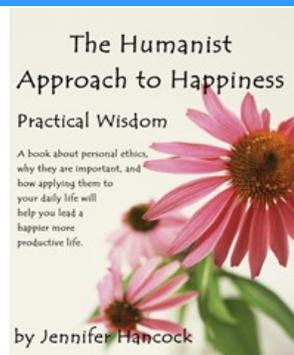
Zuckerman formally interviewed nearly 150 Danes and Swedes of all ages and educational backgrounds over the course of fourteen months. He was particularly interested in the worldviews of people who live their lives without religious orientation. How do they think about and cope with death? Are they worried about an afterlife? What he found is that nearly all of his interviewees live their lives without much fear of the Grim Reaper or worries about the hereafter. This led him to wonder how and why it is that certain societies are non-religious in a world that seems to be marked by increasing religiosity. Drawing on prominent sociological theories and his own extensive research, Zuckerman ventures some interesting answers.

This fascinating approach directly counters the claims of outspoken, conservative American Christians who argue that a society without God would be hell on earth. It is crucial, Zuckerman believes, for Americans to know that “society without God is not only possible, but it can be quite civil and pleasant.”

For more information see, <https://philzuckerman.com/>



**Jennifer
Hancock**



is a writer and speaker who specializes in [Humanistic Leadership](#) and [Humanistic Parenting](#) topics.

Humanism is a highly effective approach to human development. In fact it is the most humane and holistic approach to ethical philosophy humanity has ever devised.

Jennifer is the author of:

[The Humanist Approach to Happiness: Practical Wisdom](#)

[Jen Hancock's Handy Humanism Handbook](#).

[The Bully Vaccine](#), and [The Humanist Approach to Happiness Life Skills Course](#). She is founder of Humanist Families of Tampa Bay.

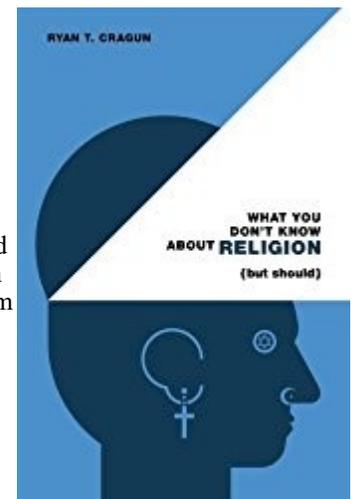
She is currently working on a book about Humanistic Business Management. In her spare time she writes a freelance column about Humanism for the Bradenton Herald newspaper. You can also find her at the Happiness through Humanism [blog](#) and [podcast](#).

as a moderating [an online Humanist Bible Study](#) group. For more, see <http://www.jen-hancock.com/>

[Also, see page 9](#)



Our Introducer and MC is:
Dr. Ryan Cragun



Ryan T. Cragun (1976-) is a husband father, and sociologist of religion (in order of importance). Originally from Utah, he now lives in Florida and works at the University of Tampa. Ryan’s research and writing focuses on religion, with an emphasis on Mormonism and the nonreligious.

His research has been published in a variety of academic journals,

including: *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Nova Religio*, *Journal of Religion and Health*, and *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. When he’s not working, he’s spending time with his wife and son, watching science fiction, hiking, playing soccer, or tinkering with FOSS, Gnu/Linux, or computer hardware.

For more, see: <https://www.ryanteragun.com/>

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



Ed Golly, Chair - Al Hann, Vice chair,

See [AoF Meetup](#) for details Website: <http://aof.ngo>

AoF is a comfortable & safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, & make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus. For many people, atheism represents the most focused & powerful criticism of the philosophical world-view with which most of us were raised. It is liberating for the same reason it attracts the enmity of those who are committed to the closed & changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP

Atheists of Florida is pleased to announce the renewal of its live outreach talk program, the *Atheist Forum*, every Sunday evening, from 7 to 8 pm.



The program is airing on TanTalk Radio. The broadcast is also available **on the internet at TanTalk1340.com**, live streaming on smart phones using the “**TuneIn**” application, and on the following frequencies in the Tampa Bay area – **WTAN AM 1340, WZHR AM 1400, WDCF AM 1350, WTAN FM 106.1, and WZHR FM 104.3.** Listeners can call **727-441-3000**, where four lines await your call in of questions and comments. All programs are being archived on the AoF web site, www.talk.aof.ngo.



Ever wonder what Florida Freethought groups are doing?

Now you can easily know.

Atheists of Florida have a new freethought Calendar: <http://AtheistsOfFloridaInc.org/calendar/> Know what's going on around the state.



Members of the New 2018-19 Board:

- Al Hann • Andrea Fischer • Brad Perryman
- Chris Brown • Ed Golly • Eileen Stafford
- Jim Peterson • Joe Reinhardt • Judy Adkins
- Sandra Smith • Tracy Thomas

Officers for 2018

- Chairman- Ed Golly
- Vice chairman – Al Hann
- Secretary – Eileen Stafford
- Treasurer – Sandra Smith

You may contact the board of directors by emailing BOD@AtheistsOfFloridaInc.org

An Atheist Quote

“Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man -- living in the sky -- who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things he does not want you to do.. And if you do any of these ten things, he has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever 'til the end of time! ..But He loves you... and HE NEEDS MONEY!” *George Carlin*

Atheists of Florida is seeking guests for the *Forum* and will offer advertising on the program for other Freethought organizations to promote their special events or seek membership from listeners. Contact our production office at: af@talk.aof.ngo.

The *Atheist Forum* continues an outreach tradition begun in 1993. It affords an opportunity for members of the freethought community, now quite numerous, to have an outlet to explain their position to a broader public, and recruit new organization members. A number of well-known guests will be interviewed and take questions on, important topics of the day and new explorations of hidden aspects of human nature and the natural world. There'll be a few chuckles along the way, and local news too. Tune in and participate; give us your ideas, opinions and arguments. Celebrate the forum's open ended possibilities for expanding our community. Now is the time to make a difference: **you** are that difference. Tune in!

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com

On the web: <http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

- * Provide intellectual & emotional support to each other & to others in our community who share our philosophy.
- * Foster humanistic moral values & ethical behaviors.
- * Promote a naturalistic worldview wherein beliefs must be verified by a scientific examination of evidence.
- * Defend the separation of church & state at all levels of government as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.
- * "To Smell the Roses Along the Way"

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008.
Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa,
 every 2nd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.

February 12th

Topic: Are we over medicated? Do we use pills instead of living healthy?

See our Meetup site: www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/ for more info.

The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers



The **MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH)** community was created for atheist & secular humanist military personnel stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, their families & retired military residing in the Tampa Bay area. MASH provides a valuable & much needed resource in which you will find common ground to socialize, discuss issues, & draw emotional support from like-minded members.

Local Contact: Chris
 (christbrown@yahoo.com)
 MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:
MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

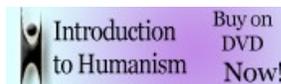
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a 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*, & her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine*.



Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize & 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 & Manatee/Sarasota area outings every month.

Throughout the year we host parties like Darwin Day in February, World Humanist Day in June, Freethought Day at Disney in October & Carl Sagan Day in November. Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).

See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.



USF Freethinkers

Join Freethinkers@USF for genuine, conversational

discourse & a communal atmosphere.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/> for more information.



Humanistic Judaism of Tampa Bay

Visit the [Meetup](#), or email Jeff Lipkes

Get the Bank of Wisdom—**FREE**.
 Contact [Marios Psomas](#), Librarian



Tampa Bay Technology Center & Thinkers Salon



We repair our member's computers - Free!

Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. **300 S Duncan Ave. Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755.** [Map](#)

Check out *Thinker's Salon* a forum for serious social & scientific ideas & issues.

Find us at:
www.tampa-bay.org



The mission of the [Secular Coalition for Florida](#) is to increase the visibility of & respect for non-theistic view-points in the State, & to protect & strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

Bill Norsworthy, is our Florida representative.

Please sign up [here](#). Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, & appreciated!



See page 7 for more information on our Secular Coalition activities around the National day of Reason. SC wants *you* to represent the voice of thousands of the people of reason in the halls of power.

As our government undergoes its quadrennial crises of morphology, the secular coalition is needed to remind citizens & officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots requires your involvement.



[ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay](#)

Hi Friend of ACLU –

There are only a few days left to reach our goal of collecting one million signatures to make sure the Voter Restoration Amendment is on the November 2018 ballot.

[Download, print and sign the Voter Restoration Amendment petition.](#)

Just last week, we heard of and read stories about the thousands of returning citizens in Alabama who voted for the first time after having their voting rights restored. Having the ability to vote allows returning citizens to become full members of their communities again. If we can pull this off, we will be one step closer to giving the ability to vote back to 1.6 million Floridians.

We are grateful for your support of voting rights in our state. And, if you haven't signed the petition, it's not too late. [Download, print and sign the petition.](#) Then mail it back to us. For a list of locations you can mail-in your petitions [visit our website](#). Floridians believe in second chances. Together, we can restore the ability to vote in Florida.



<http://instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/index.htm>



Norm R. Allen Jr.

On Monday, December 4, 2017, I hosted a showing of the documentary *Contradiction*, by Black atheist Jeremiah Camara. I appeared in the 2014 documentary that deals with theism – primarily Christianity – in the Black community.

The film was very well-received and there was a lively discussion that followed. Most of those in attendance were theists and two Afrocentric individuals had some defenses of theism. One man, a local college instructor, made several comments. He did not like the title of the film. He pointed out that rather than a contradiction, Black religion is a paradox.

That is to say, it might appear to be contradictory, but deeper thought reveals its conflicting truths. I disagree. Religion in general and “holy” books in particular are filled with contradictions.

Moreover, the main contradiction that the documentary sought to highlight was the large number of Black churches (estimated at 85,000) in the U.S. with the widespread poverty, suffering, ill health, etc. found among African Americans. If we spend so much time, money and prayer on spirituality, why are we at the bottom where the major quality of life indicators are concerned? That is a blatant contradiction.

[Read more here...](#)

[UU Humanists of Clearwater](#)

Usually every 3rd Sunday at 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services, at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.



We urge all of our members to come to the Darwin Day meeting on the 3rd. Details are in this newsletter starting on page 1.

This is our big event in the Octagon, and the subject is compelling. We're sure you will find it to be time and money well spent.



A Humanist Discussion group in East Tampa !

[UU Humanists of Tampa](#)

Public Discussion, 2nd Wednesday eve from 7-9 PM, & on the 4th Sunday Morning 9:45-10:45.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637



Positive Postcard Project: A Secular, On-Site Service Initiative

by Tee Rogers

Humanist Chaplain—[BE Orlando Humanist Fellowship](#) (a Cooperating Member of the [Orlando Coalition of Reason](#))

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

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

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

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

We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason & its director, **Jason Heap**.

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

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

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments . JP

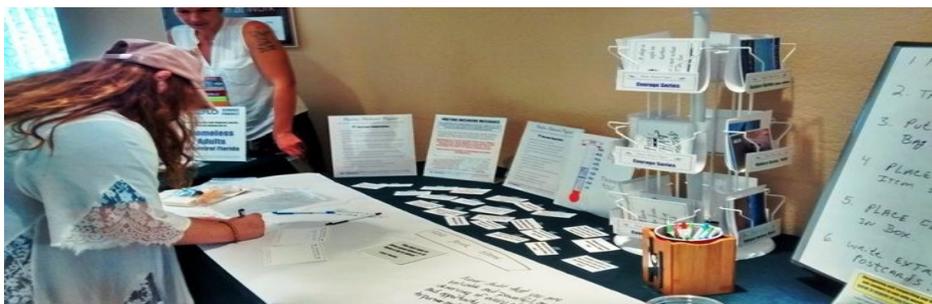
Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net
Or see, <http://tampabaycor.net/>
Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>

Finding an on-site service project on a small budget can be a challenge. Here’s a meaningful solution and a resource site with everything you need to host this project at your next event, conference, or meeting! The [Positive Postcard Project](#) shares messages of human connection and love that can inspire, comfort, or uplift a recipient of any faith or non-faith perspective.

This is important. Many support card and note projects come from churches and other organizations that are biased towards theism and proselytizing. These cards often contain language that not only isn’t meaningful or relevant to non-theistic people, but can further victimize or even isolate them, thereby increasing their burden, and causing unnecessary grief and anxiety during their times of need.

People who identify as non-theistic are all around us, and they, too, are among those in need. They deserve resources, support, representation, comfort, care, and love. *Positive Postcards* engages secular communities and our secular-friendly allies by providing that support and encouragement. The project can also be hosted at public events, educating theistic faith communities about respecting the diverse perspectives of those who receive cards or letters such as these.

A person’s time of turmoil, challenge, or disadvantage should not be an opportunity to market religious belief or no preference. We don’t know the perspective of the person receiving the card and therefore should craft messages that speak to **any** recipient—unapologetically inclusive and loving. As non-theists, we’re empowered and emotionally intelligent to ensure that members of our shared values community are respected and supported. As Humanists, we have a responsibility to seek the means to uplift others and make the world a better place.



Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH



Mark Brandt,
UUCH



Chris Brown,
MAF



Jenn Hancock,
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS



Jim Peterson,
HSS, TBPC
Facilitator



Al Hann
AoF

TBCoR Leadership Team 2017

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – February 2018 Calendar



This is produced from preliminary information. *Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when & where* We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.
Your **RSVP** is requested, & often is required for admittance. *Meeting planners need this information.*
Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://www.tampabaycor.org/>



2nd Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Freethought Social	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP: http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	             
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup	
1st Saturday, 2 PM see Pg. 2 3rd Sunday -Dinner see Pg. 3.	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists	
TBA – various activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
TBA - numerous events—this semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary! Page 11.	
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required. Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members.</i> http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
4th Saturday, 10:30 AM;	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to <i>10 paid-up CFI members.</i> RSVP is required. Must have read the book under discussion to attend. http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers	
4 th Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	
2 nd Saturday plus various other times/venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings & other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	

2018 Freethought Cruise With Annie Laurie Gaylor & Dan Barker
Sign up now. <https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/> Lvs. Port Canaveral March 3-7, 2018

