

Freethought News

Vol. 7 No. 5, May, 2018
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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* TBCoR member

Fighting for Equality

Washington, D.C., April 24, 2018)—Today the American Humanist Association (AHA) filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in support of a lower court ruling that declared that excluding atheists and Humanists from legislative invocation practices violates both the U.S. and Florida Constitutions. Two Humanist Society Celebrants, **Keith Becher and David Williamson**, are plaintiffs in the case. Both are also **leaders of local AHA groups in Florida.**

In October, 2017, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida ruled that the Brevard County Florida's Board of County Commissioners invocation policy showed favoritism for certain faiths in direct violation of the Establishment Clause. The AHA brief, endorsed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the American Ethical Union, argues that the District Court's decision should be upheld.

"Reversal of this sound ruling would contravene decades of binding First Amendment precedent holding that the government cannot prefer some religions over others, and religion over nonreligion," said Monica Miller, Senior Counsel of the AHA's Legal Center. "Moreover, the Supreme Court has specifically declared that Humanism and atheism must be treated as 'religions' for Establishment Clause purposes."

This brief is filed on the heels of the AHA's [recent legal victory](#) in the U.S. District Court of North Carolina, which ruled that the disparate treatment of Humanist inmates violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

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>

A Sigmund Freud Film Challenge.

Sunday, May 6, 2018 – 7:30 pm.

The Evolutionary Film Festival presents its first annual Sigmund Freud Film Challenge. Come see the results of indie filmmakers who were charged with making a 10-minute or less video that required these following elements: a Freudian theory or expression, the color yellow, "very interesting" as a line of dialogue, and Brown as the first or last name of any character.



Awards for participants follow the full screening of all the entries. The event was organized and promoted with the assistance of JRR Studios, the Evolutionary Project, the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason, the Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay, the Tampa Film Society, and the local chapter of the Tampa Bay Psychoanalytic Society.

The doors open at 6:30 pm with the program to start at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 a person, \$15 a couple. Tampa Theatre. For more information, the website is Sigmundfreudfilmchallenge.ga or contact sigmu

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar
Rick O'Keefe

Web site
Jim Peterson

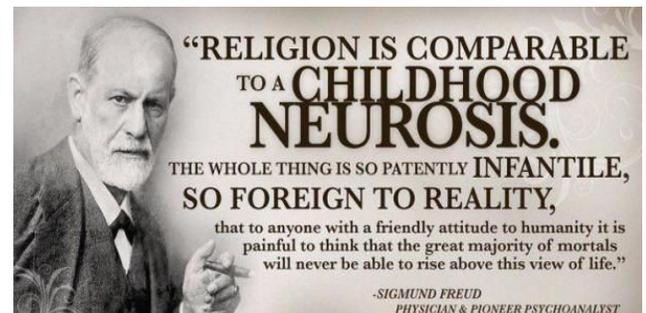
Newsletter
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:
www.tampabaycor.net

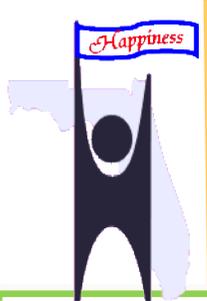
See the full roster of the
Leadership Board
on Page 17.

This publication online at:
www.tampabaycor.net



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 Be sure to call 727-441-3000, with your questions and comments. See page 14 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

Volume 31 No. 5 May, 2018

THE BIG ELECTION!

Yes, this is your big opportunity to offer to serve on our board of directors and help make the big decisions. At the very least you can help elect those who will.

We are bylaw mandated to have three meetings a year - more if necessary. The qualifications to serve are simple: paid member for more than a year, and be willing to serve for a term.

There will be some openings this time as some present members are leaving. But all positions are open. Up to nine members may be elected.

We live in challenging times and finding people with the dedication and courage to take them on within the context of a thoughtful civic organization is an important aspect of who we are.

We will have a brief discussion about direction and content of our mission before the election

After the election, the new board will elect temporary officers to carry on the business of the group. At the first regular meeting, permanent officers will be elected.

JP



Please

Join us at:



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.

The Dunedin Public
Library at
223 Douglas Ave. in
Dunedin. ([map](#))

**Saturday, May 5
at 2:00 PM**

Many of our members
meet afterward for
more talk and
refreshment at
[Los Amigos
restaurant](#) not far

Join or renew
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Annual Dues

- _ Regular -\$25
- _ Reg. Couple -\$30.
- _ **Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin a**
- _ 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

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>



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, May 20th .
at 5 O'clock for good local pub style
cooking, and the best company too, at:

Applebees

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

5110 East Bay Drive Clearwater, FL 33764
(727) 539-6388

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

Laugh Lines Dict-o-bits 5-18

COMPUTER: Device used by prisoners to calculate their escape.

COUPERAGE: Anger during a government overthrow.

ELFORTLESS: Little people with no garrison

GINERATION: Inherited alcoholism

INTERLUBE: The time between oil changes.

INTERNAT: A bug that slows up the orderly transfer of information.

LU GOO GAI PAN: a somber Chinese dish that produces unexpected hilarity.

MER-CHANT: Plaintive mantra of the telemarketer.

MORF: Demand by audiences for Encores of the work of composer, Carl Orff.

PERVARICATION: Lies told by sex offenders to cover up.

PUTZCH: An insurrection by the clumsy.

SISPENDED: When your female sibling is hung up

SUTOPIA: Lawyers paradise.

THERAPY: What you have to take, when you get the sickly.

WEEPON: A device for asserting your will through minimal threat.

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?

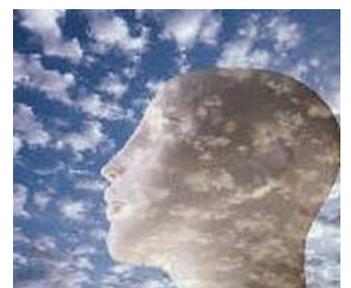
For a secular therapist,
click:
[Secular Therapy Org.](#)

[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](#)

May 19th, 11 AM

Leaders: **Lucas Hopegood & Jim Peterson**

Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, & AHA
affiliate.



This month's Issue:

Gambling

A philosophical and practical discussion on this ancient habit

Our guest will be **Joe Reinhardt**

Taking a risk, taking a chance; it's all part of the life we lead. Everything we do has an element of the gamble to it.. Unlike animals, we humans are equipped with an imagination that allows to consider the rewards and possible negative outcomes of our actions. We also have the capacity to evaluate those risks and rewards and the likelihood of success from engaging with uncertain situations. These actions enter into everything from crossing the street to social relationships, to high stakes poker. How we handle these situations can determine our fate in many ways.

Joe Reinhardt is uniquely qualified to address these issues, both academically, and as a successful business person, and in his position as an astute observer of human behavior in stressful situations.

As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above and 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, and the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully & critically dissects a new intersection of mind and 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.

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/>



To the Editors,

(RE: Krauss shunned by AHA...)

It appears to me that the numbers of women who have come forth more than reveals what level Krauss has stooped to in his travels. Atheists and Humanists above all should follow the high road and not stoop to Trump like behavior. When at one of our state meetings we had to list proper behavior for the men attending, I was saddened. We still find it necessary to provide a notice for our Free Flo conference. That the CFI used due process to defend Dr. K concerns me. What do we do, hold court? Women's accusations in such large numbers are not to be believed?

Dave Helgager
Sarasota

We invite further dialog on this pertinent question. Ed's

Humanist Quotes

4/18

"Humanists are people who do the right thing even though they know that no one is watching." - Anon

"Humanism is about the world, not about humanism." - Harold Blackham

"Whenever you have a mishap, remember to ask yourself how you can make use of it." - Epictetus (1 st Century CE)

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood." - Attributed to Marie Curie (1867-1934)

"The only possible basis for a sound morality is mutual tolerance and respect: tolerance of one another's customs and opinions; respect for one another's rights and feelings; awareness of one another's needs." - A J Ayer, *The Humanist Outlook*, 1968

"Of all the means by which wisdom ensures happiness throughout life, by far the most important is the possession of friendship." - Epicurus, *Principle Doctrines*,



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](#)

We are approaching the sixtieth birthday of ...

The Keeling Curve.

It is such a stunning example of important and clearly presented science that it has been designated as a National Historic Chemical Landmark. Its creator received the highest US award for lifetime achievement in science, the National Medal of Science, “for his pioneering and fundamental research on atmospheric and oceanic carbon dioxide, the basis for understanding global carbon cycle and global warming.”

In July 1958, Dr. Charles Keeling of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography began measuring the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the Earth’s atmosphere. Using measuring equipment and techniques he developed, he collected air samples daily from an observatory 3,000 meters above sea level, on the remote north side of the Mauna Loa volcano on Hawaii’s Big Island.

He continued doing this until his death in 2005, and his son Ralph, also a climate scientist at Scripps, has continued it since. The result is the world’s longest continuous record of atmospheric carbon dioxide. A recent release is shown below.

In his very first annual report, Keeling noted that the level at the end of the first year was higher than it had been 12 months earlier. That proved to be a permanent trend. The amount of CO₂ in the air we breathe has risen from 313 parts per million to 421 — a 33% increase. Keeling’s work disproved the once common view that oceans and other sinks would prevent CO₂ from fossil fuels from accumulating in the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide is transparent to the part of the electromagnetic spectrum we experience as visible light, but opaque to the part we feel as heat.

As in a greenhouse, sunlight gets in and warms things up, but the heat can’t get out. The more CO₂ there is in the atmosphere, the warmer our climate will be.

A 33% increase in 60 years is a serious concern, but it’s much worse than it looks. In the 1990s, scientists drilled deep holes in Antarctic’s ancient ice — the cores they removed provide an 800,000 year record of atmospheric CO₂ levels. Through all that time, through ice ages and warm spells, the CO₂ level was never higher than 300 parts per million. Greenhouse gas concentrations were already above that when Keeling started work, and they are still going up.

But there is something else of note in the Keeling Curve. Before the steady upward trend was clear, Keeling noticed something unexpected — CO₂ levels rise from October to May and fall from May to October, creating a saw-tooth pattern, shown in red. He was the first person to see the Earth breathing.

Continued on page 13



1939

2018

Luke Melton was one of the principal forces behind the Tampa Bay Post Carbon Council, having cofounded it with Jim Peterson in 2005.

He founded the Latitude 28 Design firm in 1988. He had a Bachelors Degree in Marketing from Vanderbilt University, and a Masters Degree in Digital Design as well as Landscape architecture from the University of Georgia.

He was Married to Susan Kelly.

Luke was among the rare species of human beings who possessed an insatiable curiosity matched with a vigorous intelligence. He was a true humanist with an interest in, and tolerance of many diverse ideas and people. He shared his knowledge with us many times.

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:

<http://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*

Some of May's activities are:

- ◇◇ **Howard's Skeptics Corner**
 - ◇◇ **Thanks Goodness 4 Goddess Friday Nights**
 - ◇◇ **TacoFest @ Tampa Riverfest on Cinco de Mayo**
 - ◇◇ **CFI Sunday Skeptics Brunch**
 - ◇◇ **Tampa Bay Tech Center Monthly Meeting**
 - ◇◇ **The Moveable Feast w. Humanist Society**
 - ◇◇ **CFI SHARE Book Club**
 - ◇◇ **2+ astronomy club meetings**
 - ◇◇ **Sunday Night call-in TV on the Internet**
- And more at <http://bit.ly/2jaYhv6>**

Subscribe to our CFI Tampa Bay newsletter here: <http://bit.ly/2lJTe9I>, Then scroll down the page until you see the red section with "Receive E-Mails".

You might like these blogs:

Freethought from the Heartland with Reba Boyd Wooden, Indianapolis, IN

Hollywood Reality Check with Jim Underdown, Hollywood, CA

A Skeptic Reads the Newspaper with Benjamin Radford, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Investigative Briefs with Joe Nickell, Amherst, NY

Advocatus Diaboli with Tom Flynn, Buffalo, NY

The Morning Heresy with Paul the Morning Heretic

Access Points with Timothy Binga, CFI Amherst

We enjoyed meeting those of you who stopped at our CFI table at EcoFest on Earth Day at Zoo Tampa. It's a pleasure talking with humanists interested in restoring the environment.

What is Secular Rescue?

The **Campaign for Free Expression** is an initiative of the Center for Inquiry (CFI) to focus the public's attention and efforts on one of the most basic and foundational human rights: the freedom to express yourself. We hope you join us.

Around the world, militant extremists have harassed, attacked, and murdered secularists and dissidents for daring to promote and defend secular government and fundamental human rights. In some countries, including most recently Bangladesh, this problem is particularly severe, and new threats emerge across the globe every day.

Secular Rescue is a program of the **Center for Inquiry** designed to provide emergency assistance to writers, bloggers, publishers, and activists who face threats due to their beliefs or expressions regarding religion.

Generous public support has allowed the Center for Inquiry to assist more than two dozen individuals and their families in escaping to safety, either temporarily or permanently.

Learn more including how you can help:
<http://bit.ly/2HHGxXA>

The following **official statement** by CFI was made public via social media on Monday morning, March 5th:

"The Center for Inquiry is committed to a policy <http://ow.ly/eaKH30iL3uS> of zero-tolerance for sexual harassment. Serious allegations have been raised regarding Lawrence Krauss, and we suspend our association with him pending further information."

Further questions from members, supporters, and volunteers should be directed to Nick Little, Legal nlittle@centerforinquiry.net or Robyn Blumner, CEO rblumner@centerforinquiry.net.



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, please. I'll look it up & let you know.

Cordially, Rick
tampa@CenterforInquiry.net



16 years in Florida



Take note: most graphics or blue text are links for your use. So click away!



CFI's all new "Point of Inquiry" 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!*
Sign up here: www.pointofinquiry.org/

University of South Florida Humanities Institute
*** See you in the Fall 2018 semester!
For engaging speakers & socials, check the calendar at <http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities>
Many previous lectures are available on YouTube.



The purpose of **The Clergy Project** is to provide a safe haven for active and former professional clergy/religious leaders who do not hold supernatural beliefs. It originated from a growing awareness of the presence of these professional clergy and a concern about their dilemma as they moved beyond faith.

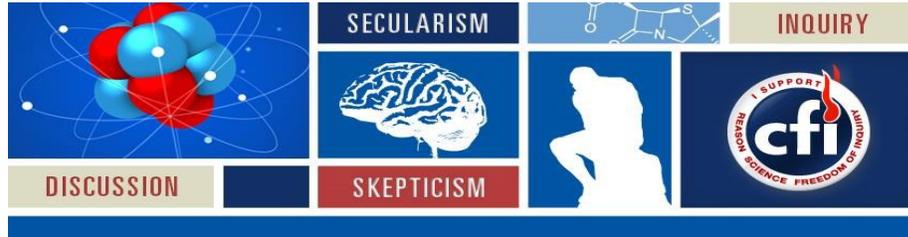


It is impossible to have faith and scientific knowledge about the same thing ~ Thomas Aquinas (The definitions of science & faith have changed.)

Non-participation is a negative personal choice.



Click below
JOIN NOW

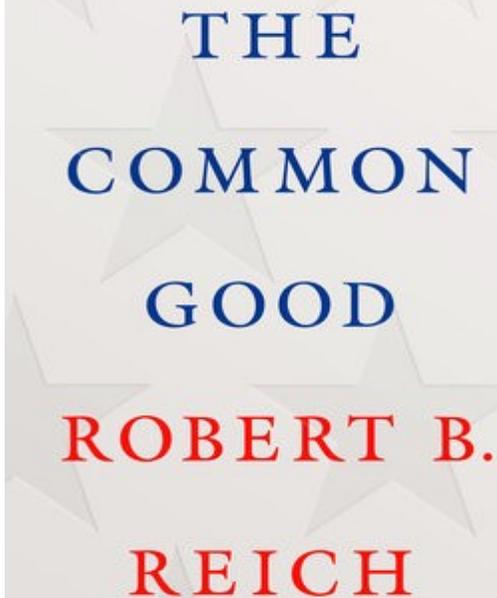


ABOUT *THE COMMON GOOD*

From the best-selling author of *Saving Capitalism* and *The Work of Nations*, a passionate, clear-eyed manifesto on why we must restore the idea of the common good to the center of our economics and politics.

With the warmth and lucidity that have made him one of our most important public voices, Robert B. Reich makes the case for a generous, inclusive understanding of the American project, centering on the moral obligations of citizenship. Rooting his argument in everyday reality and common sense, Reich demonstrates the existence of a common good, and argues that it is this that defines a society or a nation. Societies and nations undergo virtuous cycles that reinforce and build the common good, as well as vicious cycles that undermine it. Over the course of the past five decades, Reich contends, America has been in a slowly accelerating vicious cycle—one that can and must be reversed. But first we need to weigh what really matters, and how we as a country should relate to honor, shame, patriotism, truth, and the meaning of leadership.

Powerful, urgent, and utterly vital, this is a heartfelt missive from one of our foremost political thinkers: a fundamental statement about the purpose of society and a *cri de coeur* to save America's soul.



THE
COMMON
GOOD
ROBERT B.
REICH

“The important role of union organizations must be admitted: their object is the representation of the various categories of workers, their lawful collaboration in the economic advance of society, and the development of the sense of their responsibility for the realization of the **common good**.” ~ Pope Paul VI

“More and more, when faced with the world of men, the only reaction is one of individualism. Man alone is an end unto himself. Everything one tries to do for the **common good** ends in failure.” ~ Albert Camus

CHURCH AND STATE

Religious Apostasy Knows No Limits

The message to energize Christian conservatives has twin purposes:
to inspire them to *celebrate their victories* and to *stoke enough grievance*

to prod them to vote. But in a midterm election, no singular political enemy will emerge the way Hillary Clinton did in 2016. Instead, leaders of the movement plan to lean hard into a message that fans fears and grudges: that the progressive movement and national media mock Christian life and threaten everything religious conservatives have achieved in the 15 months of the Trump administration.

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!](#)



Faster than light? Well, not so fast!

By [Terry A. Smiljanich](#) (reprinted from *TBS Report*)

In September, physicists at an Italian laboratory reported that they had measured subatomic particles traveling [faster than the speed of light](#). If true, this would violate one of the seemingly unshakable principles in modern physics, first formulated by Einstein, that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light. This universal speed limit has been the bane of science-fiction writers ever since. How can we travel to distant stars if it would take years or centuries for one round trip?

The scientists at the Gran Sasso National Laboratory in Italy performed measurements over the course of three years, timing the speed of neutrinos coming from the CERN facility in Geneva, Switzerland, 730 kilometers away. Traveling at the speed of light, it should have taken 2.43 milliseconds to make the trip, but on average the neutrinos got there 60 nanoseconds sooner than expected. (A nanosecond is one billionth of a second.)

Scientists around the world were befuddled. How can this be? Will we have to rewrite the basic laws of physics? Woo-woo artists everywhere started speculating that know-it-all scientists were getting a comeuppance, and that proof of psychic phenomena will soon follow. Or could this be another ["cold fusion" fiasco](#), a new earth-shattering discovery soon to be discredited?

As it turns out, neither appears to be the case. There is an important lesson to be learned in watching this exciting report unfold. **This is science at its best, not its most ridiculous.**

Notice, first of all, how the discovery was reported. The scientists didn't call a press conference announcing that Einstein had been proven wrong and that a new world of physics had begun. The scientists instead reported their findings at a conference of peers at CERN, and set forth the specific ways in which the experiments had been performed, their attempts to triple-check the results, and the uncertainty they felt existed in their measurements. Rather than making room on their mantles for a Nobel Prize, they instead invited their fellow scientists to duplicate the experiments and find its flaws.

Also notice the reaction of the scientific community when presented with a clear description of how the experiments were performed. They immediately began exploring ways in which the findings might be wrong.

When the media tells us "here is great hope for a cure", why is it usually useless information?

Ways to validate "news" and sources for a reality check:

[Skeptical Raptor](#)
[Double X Science](#)

Perhaps a systematic error in the experiment gave rise to the anomalous results. Perhaps there was uncertainty in the "cloud of neutrinos" that were under observation. Perhaps an electronic malfunction of some sort occurred. No one threw out their physics books.

Since the initial report, the same laboratory asked CERN to "tighten" the cloud of neutrinos being generated and sent to Italy, in order to further refine the parameters of the experiment. In mid-November, they reported that even with this change in the stream of neutrinos, they measured the same 60-nanosecond-faster-than-light speed. This eliminates one possible source of error. But another group of scientists, pointing out that if the neutrinos had indeed traveled faster than light they would have lost a predictable amount of energy, looked for such loss in energy and found none.

Scientists will continue -- as they should -- looking for additional evidence contrary to the "faster-than-light" hypothesis and trying to figure out what (if anything) is wrong with the original experimental design. If they cannot find such systemic errors, then they will need to begin speculating about the ways in which the theory of special relativity may require revision. Some have even argued that special relativity could allow for such a phenomenon under very limited circumstances. Whatever happens, true scientific findings are falsifiable, and scientific theories are always open to disproof and change. Compare that to a typical psychic claim.

As Carl Sagan said, and we often repeat, "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof."



The "Grotesque Caricature" of the White Evangelical is real

By [Egberto Willies](#), Friday April 20, 2018

Most are apoplectic about the [White Evangelical](#) durable and cultlike support for Donald Trump. Some see their current morality as a self-serving new thing to get the judges they want. The evil emanating from their movement is neither new nor should it be surprising.

Hollis Phelps', Professor of Interdisciplinary studies at Mercer University in Macon, GA wrote an [article](#) titled "Maybe It's Time to Admit that the 'Grotesque Caricature' of White Evangelicals is the Reality" where he examines the pathology. It is likely the best analysis of the reality of the evil that has always been a part of the sect. He wrote the following.

There's no doubt that evangelicalism seems to have an image problem, especially since its overwhelming alliance with Trump. In the minds of many outside the fold, evangelicalism no longer represents a specific religious position centered on sin and the need for individual salvation but rather a self-serving, power-hungry political movement that will side with the devil himself for the sake of political pragmatism.

"When people say what does it mean to be an evangelical, people don't say evangelism or the gospel," Birdsall told the Washington Post. But this image problem isn't new. Although polling shows that overall feelings toward evangelicals as a religious group have remained relatively stable since 2014, the perception of evangelicals as "agents of intolerance," to quote John McCain back in 2008, well predates the Trump era. And besides, we shouldn't chalk it all up to image. The fact remains that over 80% of self-identified white evangelical voters cast their lot with Trump. Moreover, despite a host of missteps and scandals, overall evangelical support for Trump as president hasn't declined but grown.

Phelps posits the pretext that the White Evangelical uses to support Donald Trump and turns it on its head.

Given the consistency with which white evangelicals as a whole have lent their support to Trump—and right-wing candidates and policies more generally—it's far past time to own up to the fact that the image is, in many respects, the reality.

Well-intentioned evangelical leaders may not like to hear that, but it remains the case that an overwhelming majority of evangelicals continue to support Trump and his policies. Sure, they may have issues with his moral center, or lack

thereof, but they're willing to overlook all this for the sake of political expediency, for promises of "religious freedom," and the hope of a judiciary stacked with conservative judges. This is because, at the end of the day, evangelicalism isn't really about personal values but, rather, social and political conversion and control.

Phelps reveals an inconvenient truth about the White Evangelical. Trump did not create the pathology. He is just their medium that is a reflection of them.

The Trump era, then, does not create a new problem for evangelicals and their image; it's simply casting a very bright light on what has always been there, at least for the past forty years or so. ... it's questionable the extent to which evangelicals ever held much moral authority in the first place. ... appealing to some "pure" form of the faith beyond its supposed political corruption—beyond the racism, xenophobia, nationalism, and the like that even critics of paper over—isn't the way to go.

Not only do such appeals represent little more than nostalgia-laden theological desires that have little to do with what goes on on the ground, but they also ignore the fact that the line between religion and politics is flimsy at best, if not entirely non-existent.

Evangelicalism, in its current manifestation, isn't a religion that has been corrupted by its entry into politics but is, rather, a social movement that works through a specific type of politics. The substance of that politics has been clearly on display for some time now. Trump and his evangelical allies didn't invent it; they only exacerbated it.

It is important that your Evangelical relatives and friends read this. It just may give them pause as they examine their morality. Maybe they will begin to see what the rest of the world sees. Maybe they will realize the irreparable damage they are doing to Christianity.

Check out our other stories on [Evangelicals in the Trump Era](#).



The Florida Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) voted to pass a proposal that would undermine public education in Florida and open the floodgates to unregulated charter schools supported by taxpayer dollars. Instead of being answerable to local school boards, the proposal would allow other authorities to create and manage charter schools in Florida communities without local accountability.

Throughout the country, the ACLU has seen expansive charter school programs that lack public accountability lead to discriminatory enrollment policies, exacerbation of racial discrepancies in education funding, and taxpayer-funded religious education.

The CRC proposal, formerly Proposal 71, has now been misleadingly grouped with other, less controversial education language in a way that would mislead voters into not knowing they were voting on a proposal that had anything to do with charter schools.

If adopted, this provision would enable for-profit charter companies to siphon off dollars intended for public schools with no accountability, undermining Florida students' right to a high-quality public education. Because the proposal also limits local school boards' ability to manage charter schools, it also limits the public's ability to vet and monitor charter schools to ensure they comply with the same standards and non-discrimination policies as all other public schools.

We need your help to stop this proposal from advancing. [Contact the CRC now and urge them to reject this dangerous proposal.](#) Thank you for standing with us in defense of Florida students.



In late April, the Supreme Court began hearing arguments in *Trump v. Hawaii* – the first time it will fully assess the Muslim ban. SCOTUS now has the chance to, once and for all, put an end to President Trump's attempt to violate our religious freedoms and the basic principles of our immigration laws.

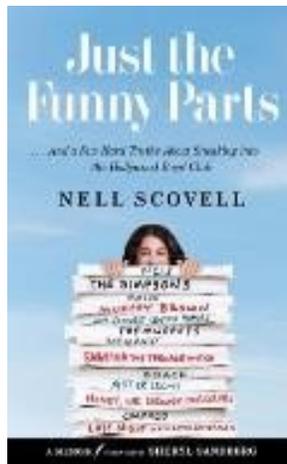
We know it's been a long, complicated legal fight since the first Muslim ban was announced over a year ago, but let's be clear: *Each version of the ban has been found unconstitutional, illegal, or both by federal trial and appellate courts.*

Today, as the Supreme Court convenes to hear arguments against the third version of Trump's Muslim ban, it's critical to highlight the human toll of Trump's hateful executive order. [Visit our Living with the Muslim Ban collection to read the stories of Rashad, Haya, and so many others whose lives have been uprooted by the ban.](#)

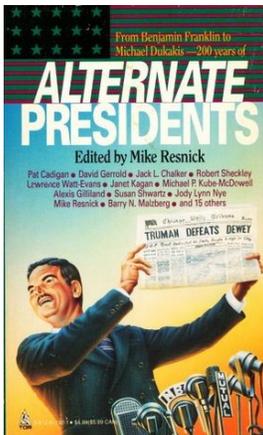
Recommended Reading

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

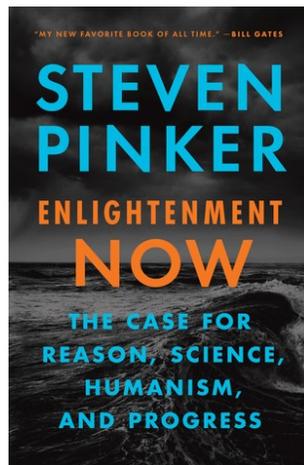
This juicy and insightful memoir blows the doors off the male dominated writers' room and offers a scathingly funny account of Hollywood's sexual politics over the last 30 years. After David Letterman publicly confessed that he'd had "sex with staffers," former *Late Night* Nell Scovell felt compelled to speak out. Her revelations about gender discrimination in late night TV ignited a serious, sometimes contentious cultural debate about diversity in the workplace.



President Ben Franklin? Aaron Burr? Davey Crockett? Victoria Woodhull? *Alternate Presidents* is an alternate history anthology edited by Mike Resnick, published in the United States by Tor Books. Each story is by a different author, and presents a scenario where an individual becomes President of the United States in a way that did not occur in real life.



“The Enlightenment Is Working—Don’t listen to the gloom-sayers. The world has improved by every measure of human flourishing over the past two centuries, and the progress continues,” writes Steven Pinker. Humanism + Science continue lifting humans up.



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 Prahl's Freethought Library. Contact fprahl@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.

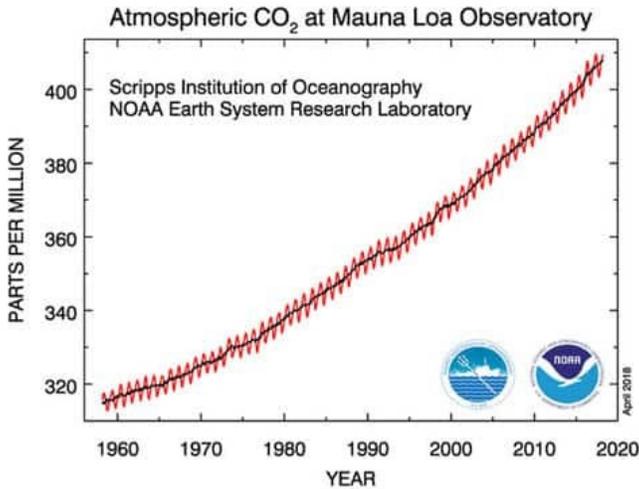
#	TITLE	AUTHOR
	80. An Atheist Stranger	Herb Silverman
	81. Candidate without a prayer	Herb Silverman
	1. The Expanding Circle	Peter Singer
	2. In Gods we Trust	Scott Atran
	3. Why Evolution is True	Jerry Coyne
	4. The Second World	Panag Khanna
	5. Denialism	Michael Specter
	6. The Selfish Gene	Richard 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 Niose
	20. God on Trial	Peter Irons
	21. Natural Experiments of History	Diamond-Robinson
	22. The Missionary Position	Christopher Hitchens
	23. Life Inc	Douglas Rushkoff
	24. A brief History of Time	Stephen 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.	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
	64. On Religious Liberty	Roger Williams & Davis
	65. The God Makers	Baker & Hunt
	66. Inevitable Illusions	M. Piattelli-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	Nisbett – Cohen
	78. Rot on the Vine	Stenesh
	79. Thoughts of a Freethinker	New Kaye



* Essential works

The Keeling Curve

Continued from Page 5



The saw-tooth pattern reflects vegetation cycles in the northern hemisphere: CO₂ is taken out of the atmosphere by living plants during the April-September growing season, and released by dead plants in the rest of the year. The pattern is slightly offset by the opposite seasons in the southern hemisphere, but since the majority of the world's land, and the great majority of agricultural land, is in the north, the saw-tooth cycle is not over-riden. This pattern has probably been unchanged as long as the continents have been in their present locations.

The saw-tooth pattern reveals an important example of the complex interworking of biological, chemical and geological cycles that define global metabolism. The planet's orbit and tilt cause seasons, which trigger cycles of plant growth and decay, which cause atmospheric CO₂ to rise and fall. While each of those cycles can be studied independently, they can only be fully understood as elements of the Earth as an integrated system.

Since 1958 the amplitude of the zigzag — the distance from high to low each year — has increased by as much as 50%. More CO₂ is being absorbed by forests and plants in spring and summer, and more is being released in fall and winter, but the change isn't balanced — the highs are increasing faster than the lows. Plants seem to be struggling to take in as much as possible. Other studies indicate that increased CO₂ intake helps plants such as corn to grow faster, but reduces the crop's nutritional value.

What the Keeling Curve shows, then, are two separate but connected rifts in Earth's metabolism. First, an increase in total CO₂ that breaks with at least 800,000 years of history. Second, increased CO₂ is changing the way that plants absorb and emit CO₂, and that in turn is altering a seasonal cycle that has likely been unchanged for hundreds of millions of years.

In short, the Keeling Curve shows that Earth isn't just breathing, it is hyperventilating. No one knows what the long-term results might be.



Keeping up with Jennifer...

New Books and New Delhi



I am going to New Delhi. I have been asked to participate in a happy workplace conclave to discuss humanistic business management and how to use science to stop bullying in the workplace. While I am there, I have also been asked to speak to 450 teachers at the Shri Ram School - to talk to them about how to use behavioral science to stop bullying behavior. I am very excited about this.

The other good news is that I am making progress on getting my online programs converted into streaming video, dvds, books, audio books and ebooks.

The latest is Reality Based Decision Making for Effective Strategy Development: <http://amzn.to/2ED0Pfd>

Also available in multiple formats is Socratic Jujitsu: How to Win Arguments Without Arguing: <http://amzn.to/2sH3orc>

And Why Bullies Bully & How to Stop Them Using Science: <http://amzn.to/2FgldyE>

Of course, all of these courses and more are available at: <https://humanistlearning.com/programsoffered/>

Finally - my new course - How to De-Escalate Conflicts Using Behavioral Science is available for registration: <https://humanistlearning.com/de-escalate-conflicts/> Please note that I will be out of town until March 1st, so there may be a delay in getting you registered onto this course. It is also only pre-approved by SHRM as I am waiting on HRCI approval. But a general certificate of completion is available.

Thanks and take care.

Jennifer Hancock



UU Humanists of Clearwater

Usually every 3rd Sunday at 12:30 to 1:30 pm, after UU services,

at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.

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

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



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.

Ed Golly, Chair - Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir.
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



In God We Trust ?

Atheists of Florida continues contacting Florida School boards concerning our offer to supply the signs needed to meet the mandate the legislature passed that all schools display the state motto, In God We Trust., in every building used by the school board. We are offering to supply, at our expense, signs which meet the requirement, but also teach students about the first amendment and the diversity of gods (religions) in the United States. (The signs are pictured above and are also available at Free2Think.org) We have directly contacted 65 of the 67 county school boards to inform them of our offer. We attended the Pinellas County School Board meeting in April (the presentation is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/SDOVXSQZ7Y4>) and will attend the Sarasota County School Board meeting in May.

To assist us with the project we ran a (not very scientific) survey asking what god(s), if any, people trust. While the survey doesn't officially close until April 30th, the results are pretty clear. We have, at the time of publication, received 431 responses. 45.9% of the responses say they trust no god. The Fly Spaghetti Monster received 35.7% of the vote, with Jesus receiving 14.6% and Thor getting 11.8%. We listed 23 gods (some with multiple names) and gave people a chance to add their own god, so we ended up with 56 gods. A few of the gods added were the Invisible Pink Unicorn, All when my period is late, and the extraterrestrial Spaghetti goddess.



Anyone interested in assisting with this project may donate funds at free2think.org.

The Atheist Forum



Sunday 7 to 8 pm.

The broadcast is 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.

- ? ? Do you have something to say
- ? ? Have a topic you'd like to hear about
- ? ? Know someone you'd like to suggest to be a guest on our show?

Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org





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

Monday, May 14, 2018

Topic: Cryptocurrency: What is it?

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

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



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. Our new address is 2189 Cleveland Street, Suite 229, Clearwater FL 33765. [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 17 for more information on our Secular Coalition connection to 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 seemingly perpetual crises, 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.



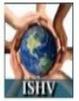
[ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay](#)

The “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act” will impact the daily lives of our youth, especially our youth of color, LGBTQ youth and youth struggling with disabilities and trauma.

There will be collateral consequences in the name of safety. We cannot let those consequences derail young lives. The aftermath of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman has echoed that of Columbine: ‘hardened schools’, ‘bullying’, ‘law enforcement at every school’, ‘video game violence’, ‘gun control’, ‘zero tolerance.’ We’ve been here before.

School boards across the state will be implementing the Act’s requirements over the coming months and they need to hear your voice. As part of our Keep Kids Learning Campaign, we’ve broken down what the [Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act will mean for students](#), and where you can direct your advocacy.

The Institute for Science and Human Values
Inspired by Empathy and Creativity, guided by Reason Paul Kurtz, Founder • Jonathan Kurtz, Chairman
<http://instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/index.htm>



The Humanist Way By Norm R. Allen Jr.

Progressive Christians should not be reluctant to give humanism a try. Many Black Christians in particular seem blissfully unaware of the damage that organized religion has done to the African continent. Was all of the pain, misery, oppression, enslavement and death really worth it? Conversely, organized humanists have traveled the world without oppressing, enslaving and killing people. We have disrupted no cultures and smashed no idols. We come in peace and go in peace. The bottom line is that progressive Christians should at least do more to challenge the reactionary teachings of the Bible. If they cannot transform their reactionary churches from within, they need to find new, progressive churches, as many have done. After all, the world would be a much better place if all religious individuals and institutions were truly and consistently progressive.

Read more:

www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/

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 CoR

TAMPA BAY 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.org/>
Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>

Thinking Freely Speaking Out



By **Jim Haught**, United CoR

Even after the *Bill of Rights* was law, some states continued to outlaw criticism of religion. In 1879, a Maryland law asserted:

“If any person, by writing or speaking, shall blaspheme or curse God, or shall write or utter any profane words of and concerning our Savior, Jesus Christ, or of and concerning the Trinity... shall be imprisoned not more than six months.”

A famous American case involved P.T. Barnum before he became a circus tycoon. As a teen-ager, he started a weekly Connecticut newspaper, *The Herald of Freedom*, which denounced Calvinist “blue laws” against Sabbath work. His attack on church elders caused a libel prosecution that put him in jail for two months. Upon release, the budding showman staged a welcome-home parade for himself.

England’s laws required all officeholders to swear a religious oath “on the true faith of a Christian.” Freethinker Charles Bradlaugh, president of the Secular Society and publisher of a skeptic newspaper, was elected to Parliament in 1880, but refused to swear the oath. He was jailed briefly and expelled from the House of Commons, then won subsequent re-elections, and finally was seated in 1886. Previously, he and secular colleagues fought various blasphemy charges.

Today, many Western democracies are scuttling blasphemy laws – but Muslim lands still enforce them brutally.

The clash between free speech and blasphemy prosecution cannot be resolved. It ends only when religion fades so much that too few believers remain to be outraged by questioning. Witty British writer and Catholic apologist G.K. Chesterton wrote in 1905:

“Blasphemy depends on belief and is fading with it. If anyone doubts this, let him sit down seriously and try to think blasphemous thoughts about Thor.



Al Hann
AoF



Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH



Mark Brandt,
UUCH



Chris Brown,
MAF



Jenn Hancock,
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS



Jim Peterson
HSS, TBPC
CoR Facilitator

TBCoR Leadership Team 2018

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – May 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.net/>



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/2jaYhv6	
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	

2019 Freethought Cruise

Possible Cuba itinerary. Watch for more details here soon. Departs Florida March, 2019

