

Freethought News

Vol. 10 No. 3 March 2021
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason and Atheists of Florida are pleased to present...

Dr. Chrissy Stroop

Special Zoom presentation
at 5 PM on Sun. 3/21/2021

RSVP at either the AoF or TB-CoR
Meetup pages. See Page 8

She will speak on...

“Escape from Jesus Land: On Indoctrination, Identity Loss, Self-Discovery, and Learning to Talk Back”

Please Don't Delay - Get Your Covid 19,
Shingle, Flu, & Pneumonia Shots - STAT!

Finally. The pandemic vaccine we've all been waiting on is flowing in; seniors first. While rapidly becoming available at grocery and drug stores, you'll still need an appointment. For **Shingles**, the CDC and Food and Drug administrations have approved, **Shingrix**, also available at many of the same locations.

If you have already had the first vaccine in a series, be sure to *get the second to complete your protection*. Also, don't forget your current **Flu & Pneumonia shots** available now.

All members and former members of the Humanist Society of the Suncoast !

During this past year we seem unable to reach a significant number of the members. We have had as many as 5 Zoom sessions (some with unfortunate glitches) but we persisted.

Please [e-mail](#) your best ideas on how to revive and reopen the society's proceedings which seems likely to be possible sometime in the next three months.

Now that vaccines are here, we can re-emerge once again to explore the nature of the universe and ourselves.

Our world is precariously perched on a high point somewhere between unimagined prosperity and social peace, and the emptiness of extinction.. Not too late, but urgent describes the time now open to us.

This is a time when sharp witted, educated (in the broadest sense) and thoughtful people can find ways to make a necessary contribution to the ever-expanding definition of what it means to be human and not the final period after the last word.

This is now an opportunity to find new ideas, new format, and new purpose. And, in a practical vein, maybe a new location.

We need the difference only you can make.

Jim Peterson

(or please just check in...)

NB. Until further notice, following best-practices and official medical recommendations, **all group face to face gatherings are postponed** due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will let you know here when we're go for "Normal."

Tampa Bay
Coalition of Reason
Web site-Jim Peterson
Editors-Jim Peterson &
Rick O'Keefe

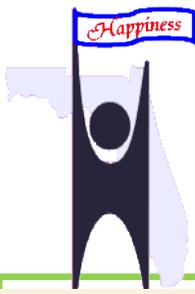
Back & current issues online at:
<http://www.tampabaycor.net>

Special Projects-Mark Brandt
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event websites at:
<http://bit.ly/2vUJoE1>

Opinions expressed in this
publication are those of the authors.
They do not purport to reflect the
opinions or views of the editors,
TBCoR, or its member organizations.

Anywhere in this
newsletter, **CLICK** on an
image or **blue text** for a link.



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

Vol. XXXIV No. 3 March, 2021



Are you passionate about humanism? Are you a dynamic speaker who can present on a topic that is of interest to humanists in the United States? If so, we invite you to submit a speaking proposal for our 80th Annual Conference taking place virtually on July 24th and 25th.

The Evaluation Process

All proposals will be reviewed for overall quality, relevance to humanism, well-defined focus, practical applications of material, timeliness and originality of the topic, and the speaker's qualifications. Presentations are expected to provide valuable and high-quality educational ideas and engage the audience.

Program Guidelines

Your topic should be relevant to humanism, science, social justice, religion, activism or similar topics. Presentations should be either one hour or thirty minutes in length. Length of presentations are subject to change.

To Apply

To be considered, please fill out the form [online](#) before March 26, 2021. Please keep in mind that spots do fill up quickly, so submit your proposal as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in the secular community, meet like-minded people, and gain visibility.

Humanism
is a progressive philosophy
of life that, without
theism or other
supernatural beliefs,
affirms our ability and
responsibility to lead
ethical lives of personal
fulfillment that aspire to
the greater good.

The Humanist Society is a 501c3 organization. As such we can take no position, and do not endorse any candidacy or political party. We will discuss issues and ideas, however. We recommend that you use available resources on the web and media to learn more and critically assess your local candidates and issues.

Our Local Board Meeting

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast will have another board meeting soon. Under consideration are ideas and directions for future programs. Members are invited to contribute ideas: contact jim@suncoasthumanist.com to let us know what you think. Members are also invited to contribute dues, the all important resource that allows us to exist. See the column to the right...



The Humanist Society has maintained an enlightened presence on the Florida Suncoast sine 1987.

Please Join or renew
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Annual Dues

- Regular -\$25
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin above)
- Life -\$200. (Inc. Pin)
- Life Couple -\$250 (Pins)
- 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, **Scott Wilson** scott33761@yahoo.com*

If new, please give info below; 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:
“Scott Wilson”

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

Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
6814 Charlotte Harbor Way
Tampa FL 33625



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

Random Appropriations

I wonder what my parents did to fight boredom before the internet I asked my 15 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.

Lawyer: "Doctor, as a result of your examinations, would you say the woman was pregnant?" **Doctor:** "Yes, she was pregnant, but not as a result of my examination."

How do you hide a \$100 bill from a televangelist? Place it in their bible.

My son asked, "Dad, what are condoms for?" Usually to avoid answering questions like these," I replied.

My son is a man trapped in a woman's body.. He'll be born in March.

An elderly man went to his doctor and said, 'Doc, I think I'm getting senile.. Several times lately, I have forgotten to zip up.' 'That's not senility,' replied the doctor. 'Senility is when you forget to zip down.'

Genie: "What's your first wish?" **Steve:** "I wish I was rich." **Genie:** "What's your second wish, Rich?"

Quasimodo was the best detective in France. He always had a hunch.

If A is Apple, and B is Banana, what is C-4? BOOM

A man visits a televangelist and asks him to help him with his hearing. The televangelist grabs his head and violently shakes it back and forth for several minutes, screaming and shouting. After the violent gesture ends the televangelist looks at him and says, "How is your hearing?" The man replies, "I don't know yet. It's not until next Monday at 12:00."

The slogan of a televangelist "God will grant you all the money I need."

My friend Jim told me today that I make people very uncomfortable and have no respect for personal space. I mean, what a thing to say to a friend. It totally ruined our bath!

As the animals left the ark, Noah told them to go forth and multiply. After some time, Noah came upon two snakes who were just lying there sunning themselves. So Noah asked them, "Why aren't you multiplying?" The snakes replied, "We can't, we're adders."

What's the difference between a general practitioner and a specialist? One treats what you have, the other thinks you have what he treats.

Asked my wife to dress up as a nurse tonight... to fulfill my fantasy that we have health insurance.

How many Conservative economists does it take to change a light bulb? None. The invisible hand does it.

My wife accused me of being a transvestite. So I packed her things and left.

Today's extractions from the irrepressible R. O'Keefe.

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,
Kyle Hicks,
Lois Fries, Secretary
Dave Kovar,
Brad Perryman Vice Pres.
Jim Peterson, President
Scott Wilson, 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, Kay Paul, Dec. Don Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard, Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler, Marios Psomas, Dec, Steve Brown

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

Jim Peterson, Editor
E-Mail us at:

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,
Click:

[Secular Therapy Org.](#)
[Cognitive Neurosciences](#)
Or call:

Linda Falkner

www.allfloridaonline.com.

813-620-4900.

Linda@cheercounseling.com

Lynda Gurvitz,

[http://fampsy.org/member/](http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/)

[lynda-gurvitz/](http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/)

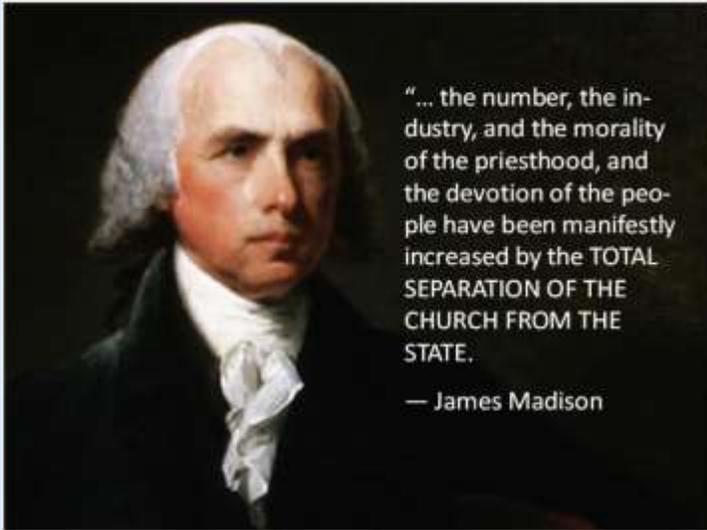
(727) 725-8820

Or, Joel Schmidt

www.floatoncounseling.com

321-604-7637





March 16 will be the 270th anniversary of **James Madison**'s birth, in 1751, which proved enormously consequential to future American freedoms of and from religion.

“Unfortunately, in most of the country his birthday will pass without even a nod of recognition toward *the man who played a crucial role in the formation of the nation and one of its central governing tenets, the separation of church and state,*” Rob Boston wrote nearly two decades ago in *Church & State*, the magazine of the activist secular group

Thx. Patheos



**FOUNDATION
BEYOND BELIEF**
humanism at work

In 2014, the American Humanist Association and Foundation Beyond Belief announced the merger of their respective charitable programs Humanist Charities and Humanist Crisis Response to encourage humanist giving. [Humanist Disaster Recovery](#), this new joint project of the AHA and FBB, exists to provide financial support to secular organizations working locally to meet the needs of recovering survivors.

Recent recovery giving campaigns have helped relief efforts with The Texas snow disaster, Hurricanes Harvey & Irma, famine in East Africa, flooding in Louisiana, earthquakes in Ecuador & Nepal, and much more.

Learn more at: foundationbeyondbelief.org/disaster-recovery

Humanist Quotes

I grew up with so many different kinds of people with different politics, different religion, no religion, no politics, education, no education, and I was infatuated with all of them. *Lily Tomlin*

The making of adaptable, curious, open, questioning people has nothing to do with vocational training and everything to do with humanistic and scientific studies. *Neil Postman*

I think design, to a degree, is more generous and more humanistic than art, though great art can move us more. — *Paula Scher*

Humanism is a philosophy of joyous service for the greater good of all humanity, of application of new ideas of scientific progress for the benefit of all.

Linus Pauling

About belief or lack of belief in an afterlife: Some of you may know that I am neither Christian nor Jewish nor Buddhist, nor a conventionally religious person of any sort. I am a humanist, which mean, in part, that I have tried to behave decently without any expectation of rewards or punishments after I'm dead.—

Kurt Vonnegut

Secular humanists suspect there is something more gloriously human about resisting the religious impulse; about accepting the cold truth, even if that truth is only that the universe is as indifferent to us as we are to it.—

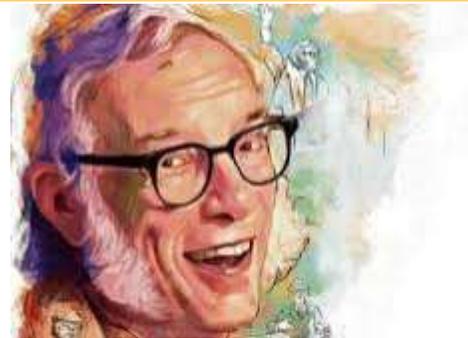
Tom Flynn

Much of human progress has been in defiance of religion or of the apparent natural order. The defiance of religious and secular authority has led to democracy, human rights, and the protection of the environment. Humanists make no apologies for this. Humanists twist no biblical doctrine to justify such actions. —

Fred Edwords

Women's fight for equal rights is essentially a humanist and peaceful struggle for true democracy, and a higher form of civilization. — *Leyla Zana*

Nursing encompasses an art, a humanistic orientation, a feeling for the value of the individual, and an intuitive sense of ethics, and of the appropriateness of action taken. — *Myrtle Aydelotte*



“Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome” *Issac Asimov.*

Humanist president, Asimov was a prolific writer, and wrote or edited more than 500 books. He also wrote an estimated 90,000 letters and postcards .

Click here



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

Will Technology solve the Climate Crisis?

When humanity started using fossil fuels, it gained access to tens of millions of years' worth of stored sunlight. The result was a Great Acceleration of everything we had been doing—including growing food and harvesting renewable and nonrenewable resources from the natural world and turning them into technology, products, and waste. Our population grew eight-fold (from one billion to nearly eight billion) in a mere two centuries.

But then the consequences appeared: climate change, resource depletion, soil erosion and salinization, species extinctions, plastic pollution, and more. It's tempting to think of these as mere technical glitches that we can solve with more technology. After all, we're accustomed to using energy and technology to solve every imaginable problem, and many people have grown rich in the process. But it's hard to escape the perception that a massive energy boost has enabled our species to proliferate too quickly, and to use too much of nature, to its own long-term detriment.

Zeroing in on climate policy, essentially the same message shouts through the data. Yes, we can substitute low-carbon energy sources for fossil fuels, but each alternative has a drawback. Solar and wind are intermittent sources, requiring energy storage and redundant generation capacity to balance out daily and seasonal peaks and troughs. Nuclear is expensive and produces radioactive waste.

Then there's the 20 percent challenge: only a fifth of final energy used globally is in the form of electricity. That means we will have to change how we use energy—replacing an enormous amount of infrastructure for transportation, building HVAC, manufacturing, and agriculture in order to electrify these activities. And we will have to create infrastructure to make low-carbon fuels for technologies that will be especially hard to electrify. Altogether, it's by far the biggest manufacturing and construction project in human history.

The trouble is, that project will require an enormous amount of energy and materials, entailing mining, smelting, other high-heat processes, transport, and waste. And, at least in the early stages, roughly 85 percent of the transition energy will come from fossil fuels. With low-carbon technologies like solar panels and e-cars, emissions are front-weighted, occurring mostly during manufacturing. So, a big pulse of emissions will result from the transition itself. We could fix

that with technology by building machines to extract CO₂ from the atmosphere, but, once again, in the manufacturing stage these will simply add to the emissions. And it's unclear who would pay for them.

When energy analyst David Fridley and I did a [months-long deep dive](#) into the opportunities and costs of the energy transition, we concluded that scale was the biggest challenge. If we assume that energy usage will continue its growth trajectory in nations like the US, then there's no realistic way through. It's only if we assume a substantial reduction in energy usage that the project becomes feasible. But that requires us to question human behavior and expectations about economic growth. Low-carbon technology is good. But by itself it will not resolve humanity's ecological dilemma.

* * *

Our environmental crisis is often framed just in terms of climate change. But resource depletion, destruction of wild habitat, and pollution also lead to collapse—just by other means. All result from economic over-expansion.

A useful metaphor for what we must do is, “take our foot off the accelerator.” If you're headed toward the wrong destination, it doesn't help to get there faster; instead, slow down and change direction.

In recent decades, there have been only two significant periods when greenhouse gas emissions declined: the global financial crisis of 2008-9 and the economic shutdown associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. During both periods, energy usage fell. In other years, despite record levels of solar and wind installations, emissions grew anyway, because economic growth stoked increased energy usage, and most of that increase came from fossil fuels. Yes, both of these periods entailed pain and suffering that no right-minded person would wish to repeat. But neither event was planned for the purpose of reducing energy usage while improving human lives.

Ecological economists understand that aiming for perpetual growth on a finite planet is a ticket to tragedy. They've spent years designing strategies to make life more enjoyable and secure while minimizing consumption. These strategies include sidelining GDP in favor of economic indicators that emphasize quality of life, and focusing on policies to create jobs rather than hoping profit-seeking corporations will prioritize job creation. What if we actually planned to reduce energy usage significantly while revamping the economy to promote happiness and well-being? Then it would be far easier to replace our remaining energy usage with renewable sources.

Taking our foot off the accelerator won't do anything to repair damage already done; it just keeps us from doing more damage in the meantime. So, what to do about all the carbon we've already shot into the atmosphere, that will keep the climate destabilized for centuries or millennia?

Building machines to suck CO₂ out of the air is a reflex response for people hooked on technofixes, but there's almost no market for carbon dioxide; the effort would have to be subsidized and it serves no other useful purpose.

However, there are ways of capturing and sequestering CO₂ that would help solve many ecological problems at once.

Reforestation would provide habitat for species we're currently driving toward extinction. Carbon farming (i.e., farming in ways that sequester carbon in soil) would increase soil fertility, improve water retention, and reduce chemical pollution. And anything we do to protect and restore ecosystems—including the oceans—will help nature take care of the increased load of carbon dioxide that we have imposed upon her.

Richard Heinberg





The Repair Clinic

Wednesday & Friday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Members get a free repair/tune-up every 365 days. Additional visits have a \$20 co-pay. The earlier you arrive, the better your chances are to be seen by a tech. We will not be able to help anyone arriving after 11am. We no longer fix XP and Vista computers, but will help you move your files to a newer operating system (Win 10 or Linux).

Other Services:

SmugMug - This is our SmugMug URL: <http://tbcs.smugmug.com/> If you have pictures of our events to post contact Dennis Hughes: dvhughes@mindspring.com for instructions on posting them.

Free 1-on-1 Tutoring

For beginners learning to operate their computer, email secretary@tampa-bay.org.

For Novice Kindle users, email secretary@tampa-bay.org.

Monday, March 1

1 pm - US History (**Live at TBTC**)

Tuesday, March 2

1 pm - Windows by Bill (**Zoom**)

Wednesday, March 3

8:30 am - Repair Clinic (**Open**)

Thursday, March 4

10 am - Cut Cable (**Zoom**)

Friday, March 5

8:30am - Repair Clinic (**Open**)

Monday, March 8

1 pm - US History (**Live at TBTC**)

Tuesday, March 9

9:30 am - E Z Stock Trading (**Zoom**)

1 pm - Windows by Bill (**Zoom**)

Wednesday, March 10

8:30 am - Repair Clinic (**Open**)

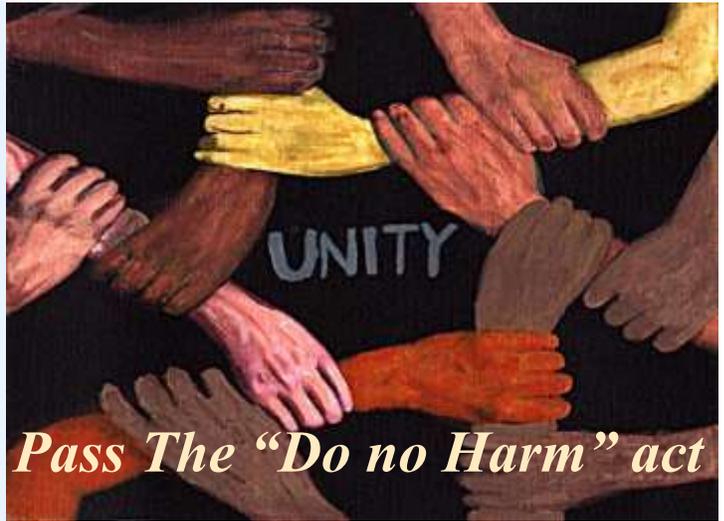
6:30 pm Board Meeting (**Zoom**)

Thursday, March 11

10 am - **canceled**

Friday, March 12

8:30am - Repair Clinic (**Open**)



Pass The "Do no Harm" act

In the years since the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was enacted in 1993 the far-right has been misusing it to weaponize religion. Today the law is being insidiously used to undermine nondiscrimination laws and to manipulate our country's longstanding definition of religious freedom--a freedom that should ensure all people can practice their faith or philosophy, so long as they do not inflict harm on others.

Companies, individuals, and taxpayer-funded organizations --from foster care agencies to universities--have used religion as a sword against religious minorities, and nontheists, LGBTQ people, women, often when they are seeking public services or healthcare.

Humanists has never tolerated such harm, and now is our chance to make sure that no one can deny others a public service, a fair wage, reproductive healthcare, and so much more by claiming religious exemptions.

The Do No Harm Act would restore the do no harm principle of the First Amendment to make sure no one can use their religion as an excuse to justify discrimination and deny people their civil rights.

Contact your congressional representative today!

Reparations for Slavery

The AHA is proud to endorse H.R. 40, also known as the [Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposal for African Americans Act](#). Humanists' commitment to anti-racism would be feeble without support for reparations for slavery and its protracted negative effects on African Americans and society. Therefore, we continue to support H.R. 40, which, if enacted, would create a commission to study the impact of slavery and discrimination in the United States, and recommend appropriate remedies to Congress. It's a first step in a long process toward accountability.

The bill received a hearing in the House last week, signaling strong support from the Democratic-led majority. But it faces an uphill battle in the Senate.

Atheists of Florida

Inc.



For our Atheists helping the Homeless project -

For all meetings: bring, if you can, small bars of unused soap, small bottles of shampoo, heavy duty socks, any kind of personal care items, or money (for bulk purchase of these items).

Ed Golly, Chair - Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir.
See **AoF Meetup** for details **Website: <http://aof.ngo>**

AoF is a comfortable & safe place in which to; find rewarding new friendships, 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



Be sure to come on in for AoF's regular Sunday evening Zoom sessions starting at 5:00 PM. See our listings below, or on the TB-CoR Meetup for topics, For linking information, see our notices on the Coalition of Reason Meetup page, or on www.aof.ngo.

Date	Guest	Topic
2/28/2021	James Young	Ethics vs Pseudo Ethics
3/7/2021	Ben Bergen	The Science of Swearing
3/14/2021	Gretchen Cothron	
3/21/2021	Chrissy Stroop	Escape from Jesus Land: On Indoctrination, Identity Loss, Self-Discovery, and Learning to Talk Back"
3/28/2021	Thomas Bryer	Finding common ground in company of strangers
4/4/2021	American Atheist Convention	Click here to get more info on the conference - We won't meet this week
4/11/2021	Mike MacMillan	Skepti-sketch

Do you know what your legislature Is up to?

AoF submitted a short survey on **religious freedom** to candidates for the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate, and the US House of Representatives. We are posting the responses on our website as they are received. You can visit the information at <https://www.atheistsofflorida.org/2020-candidates>. (NOTA BENE: We did this through email, so only those candidates for whom we could find an email address are included.)



JMA

Always Vigilant

Public school prayer events are generally billed as being student-organized in order to *appear* constitutional.

But in reality, school staff are often actively involved, even to the extent that they're the ones organizing the event.

To stop this unconstitutional Christian proselytizing, someone needs to expose the adult organizers. That's where we come in!

Let us know of any church-state violation you may run across - restrictions, prayers, bible readings, etc. We'll take it from there. Thanks, www.aof.ngo

Coming soon...

[www.Freethought.news](http://www.freethought.news)

A new web service to the entire community providing an aggregate of events around the nation and world, significant to people who care deeply about freedom. It will be updated continuously. Let us know how you like it.

For over 27 years, Atheists of Florida Inc. has attempted to provide much needed information about religion and the alternatives to religion which have proved to be so liberating for so many of us.

We invite you to explore the many written and audio video presentations from our library.

The radio/TV broadcasts are on extended hiatus for now. However, previous programs, most with discussions of timeless interest, are available **on the internet at:** www.youtube.com/atheistforum.



For now, tune in to **the Voice of Reason, Thursday at 10am on WTAN radio** See [page 13!](#) The voice is a private effort led by Ed Golly, who along with Joe Rhinehardt and guests supply fresh insights on the world we face.

Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org





Atheists of Florida and *the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason* is pleased to present....

Dr. Chrissy Stroop

Special Zoom presentation at 5 PM on Sun. 3/21/2021
RSVP at either the AoF or TB-CoR Meetup pages.

She will speak on...

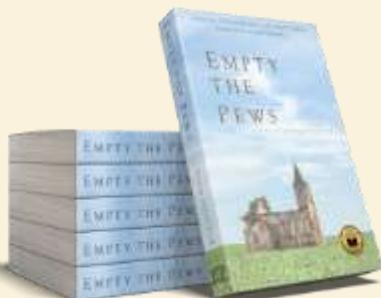
“Escape from Jesus Land: On Indoctrination, Identity Loss, Self-Discovery, and Learning to Talk Back”

Following the 2016 election of President Trump, Stroop coined the hashtag #EmptyThePews on Twitter as a call to take a moral stance against the kind of fundamentalist, authoritarian, or otherwise conservative churches that helped bring about the current (and continuing - Ed.) political situation and all its cruelty, division, and hate. The hashtag continues to circulate with the eye-opening and often heartbreaking stories of those who found the resolve to leave evangelical, Mormon, Catholic, and other religious communities. *Empty the Pews* continues this campaign by sharing the unflinchingly honest stories of those who escaped hardline religious ideology--and how it failed to crush their spirits.

Remember, your continuing contributions make it possible for us to bring these significant speakers to our area.

Read twenty-one timely, affecting essays by those who survived hardline, authoritarian religious ideology and uprooted themselves from the reality-averse churches that ultimately failed to contain their spirits.

2019 EOS Award winner.
To order, click on the award button below:



NEW FEDERAL RESERVE REPORT SUPPORTS NCRC REDLINING STUDY (2018)

This detailed study examined the relationship between redlining, segregation and disinvestment in 145 cities over a 70 year period. The findings include:

1.1. Neighborhoods that were low-graded in the 1930's as "declining" and "hazardous," saw significant increases in their share of African American population over the next 40 years. This peaked in 1970, with declines thereafter.

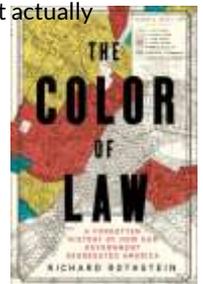
Low-graded neighborhoods saw long-term declines in rates of home ownership, home values, rents, and the credit scores of their residents. The report relates the low grades of neighborhoods to enduring disinvestment.

- 1) The ratings of neighborhoods in the HOLC maps had a causal and lasting effect on the development of urban neighborhoods.
- 2) The report explains that the low grading of neighborhoods produced "...significant and long-lasting effects on subsequent urban development" because they "led to reduced access to credit and higher borrowing costs..." which reduced the value of homes.
- 3) Reduced home values led to increases in default rates and decreased investment in home improvements. This resulted in the physical deterioration of the housing stock, a primary cause of neighborhood blight.

In over 200 cities the HOLC mapped the redlined nucleus of our cities that in many cases persists today. Housing segregation leads to less wealth, poor school quality and [a lower quality of life](#). Intractable concentrated poverty continues to plague these cities, and by using data not available to the public the Fed has shown that this is directly linked to the misguided early redlining efforts of the federal government. The study

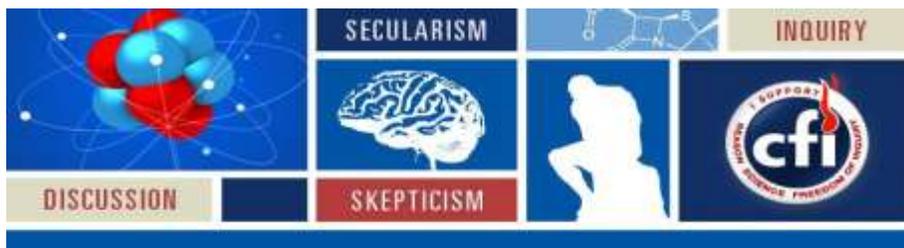
In this groundbreaking history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein, a leading authority on housing policy, explodes the myth that America's cities came to be racially divided through *de facto* segregation—that is, through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private institutions like banks and real estate agencies. Rather, *The Color of Law* incontrovertibly makes clear that it was *de jure* segregation—the laws and policy decisions passed by local, state, and federal governments—that actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.

"The American landscape will never look the same to readers of this important book" (Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund), as Rothstein's invaluable examination shows that only by relearning this history can we finally pave the way for the nation to remedy its unconstitutional past.



Sheryll Cashin is an author and the Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law, Civil Rights and Social Justice at Georgetown University. Currently she teaches Constitutional Law, Race and American Law, and a writing seminar about American segregation, education and opportunity. Her new book — *White Space, Black 'Hood': Opportunity*

Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality (forthcoming, Beacon 2021) is about the role of residential segregation in producing racial inequality.



Incorporated in Florida on October 3, 2002. Only with your support can we succeed.

Created by Paul Kurtz.

The Common Moral Decencies,

What We Share With Others

1. Personal Integrity: telling the truth, being sincere, keeping promises, being honest.
2. Trustworthiness: loyal, dependable, reliable, responsible.
3. Benevolence: goodwill, lack of malice (do not harm other persons; do not kill or rob, inflict injury, be cruel or vengeful); in sexual relations: mutual consent (between adults only); beneficent: sympathetic and compassionate, lend a helping hand, contribute positively to the welfare of others.
4. Fairness: accountability, gratitude, justice (equality), tolerance of others, cooperation, negotiate differences peacefully, without hatred or violence.

The Ethical Decencies,

Our Responsibilities to Ourselves

Autonomy, Intelligence, Self-discipline, Self-respect, Creativity, High motivation, Affirmative attitude, Joie de vivre, Good health, Exuberance

Secular Humanists base their lives on ethics, reason, and enjoying the good life. We live once and do our best to leave the world a better place than we find it. The Center for Inquiry is a transnational nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that encourages evidence-based inquiry into science, pseudoscience, medicine and health, religion, ethics, secularism, and society. The Center provides rational ethical alternatives to the reigning paranormal and religious systems of belief, and develops communities where like-minded individuals can meet and share experiences.



February 18,
2021 ↓

Journal of the American Medical Association: [The Price of Success](#)—How to Evaluate COVID-19 Vaccines When They're Available Outside of Clinical Trials

CNN: As the [WHO investigated coronavirus origins](#) in China, Beijing pushed a conspiracy about the US

NBC News: [Counterfeit N95 masks are flooding the market](#) — here's how to tell if yours is fake

CNN: [US life expectancy dropped](#) a full year in first half of 2020, according to CDC

What A Mathematical Formula Can Teach Us About Coincidence

The Crux By Noson S. Yanofsky, August 10, 2018

... This tension also defines how we engage with our own lives. While we travel through the seemingly random events in our life, we are searching for patterns, and structure. Life is full of “ups and downs.” There are the joys of falling in love, giggling with your child, and feeling a sense of great accomplishment when a hard job is completed. There is also the pain of a crumbling relationship, or the agony of failing at a task after great effort, or the tragedy of the death of a loved one. We try to make sense of all this. We abhor the feeling of total randomness and the idea that we are just following chaotic, habitual laws of physics. We want to know that there is some meaning, purpose, and significance in the world around us. We want a magical story of a life, so we tell ourselves stories.

Read the rest here: <https://bityl.co/5VjB>

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The Center for Inquiry (CFI) leads the charge on promoting science, reason, critical thinking, and humanist values.

CFI's vision is a world in which evidence, science, and compassion—rather than superstition, pseudoscience, or prejudice—guide public policy.

[I am publishing this article not as politics, but as a consideration of how we might return to a more normal society, warts and all. ROK]

The Enemy Isn't Republicans. It's Liars.

The case for a broad, fact-based alliance against fabrications. By WILLIAM SALETAN, Jan 24, SLATE

This is part of What We Learned, a series of reflections on the meaning and legacy of the Trump years.

Over the years, I've bounced around the political spectrum. I was liberal in Texas, more conservative in college, and now I'm somewhere in the middle. Through it all, I saw politics as a fight between left and right. I don't see it that way anymore. Donald Trump's presidency has exposed a bigger threat: an all-out attack on the principle that facts must be respected. We used to take that principle for granted; now we must defend it. Politics has become a fight between those who are willing to respect evidence and those who aren't.

I'm not saying Trump's other sins and crimes—the corruption, the bigotry, the treachery, the hundreds of thousands of deaths—don't matter. They certainly do. But those legacies, awful as they are, aren't as crippling as the damage he has done to our capacity for deliberation. On the issues before us—COVID, jobs, infrastructure, immigration, trade, police reform—there are lots of ideas that could unite progressives and conservatives. But without agreement on facts, or at least on a method of distinguishing facts from lies, we lose our ability to agree on policy.

What Trump has brought to the United States is ruthless, relentless, denialist propaganda at a scale we used to see only in dictatorships. He proved that tens of millions of Americans would believe such lies and that thousands would violently attack our own government. President Joe Biden, in his inaugural address, recognized this menace. "We face an attack on democracy and on truth," said Biden. The challenge, he observed, wasn't just ordinary political spin, but allegations that were wholly "manufactured." Each of us, said Biden, "has a duty ... to defend the truth and to defeat the lies."

Progressives and conservatives have always quarreled about what's true. But to make those debates productive, and to correct our country's mistakes—failed projects, naïve policies, bad wars—we need a common standard for judging truth. That standard can't be the Bible or identity politics. It has to be the standard we apply in daily life: evidence. If you say the election was stolen, you have to prove it in court. If you accuse a police officer of murder, your story has to withstand investigation.

That's how science works. While politicians stage stupid, interminable fights over wearing masks, scientists have quickly devised vaccines from genomes posted on the internet. Science has cured diseases, rolled back infant mortality, extended healthy lifespans, broadened access to information, and developed new energy technologies.

Why is science so effective? Because it constantly tests its theories against reality. It seeks out, accepts, and learns from falsification. That's what Vice President Kamala Harris, in remarks last week, said she had learned from her mother, an endocrinologist: "She instilled in me a fundamental belief in the importance of collecting and analyzing data, facts, of forming a hypothesis, and recognizing that it's not a failure to reevaluate that hypothesis when the facts don't add up." In science, discovering you were wrong isn't failure. It's progress.

Scientists take this process of testing and reevaluation for granted. To them, it's common sense. But it's more than that. It's an ethic. No law of nature forces you to test your theories against evidence or to admit, when those theories don't check out, that you were wrong. Scientists concede error, often grudgingly, because their peers demand it. Science has a culture of falsification.

Politics doesn't. When political promises don't pan out—wars turn into quagmires, public schools underperform, or tax cuts fail to pay for themselves—politicians invent excuses. This has always been a problem, but it's getting worse. Trump and his acolytes don't just spin facts; they completely disregard them. They repeat fantastic lies about election fraud, and when they're confronted with contrary evidence, they're not even embarrassed.

If we don't get control of this—if we don't reestablish an ethic of respect for facts—nothing else will be solved. We can't extinguish the virus if tens of millions of Americans insist it's a hoax and refuse to be vaccinated or wear masks. We can't restore public faith in election results and put down insurrectionism if half the population refuses to believe anything the media report. Repairing the consensus that facts must be respected won't settle our debates on spending, education, or criminal justice. But without that consensus, the crisis we're in will get much worse.

If you're not willing to compromise with reasonable people in the other party, you're not appreciating the gravity of the crisis. Four hundred thousand Americans are dead, most of them needlessly. Two-thirds of the House Republican conference, nearly one-third of the entire House, voted to reject the 2020 election results. Thousands of Americans just invaded our own Capitol, some of them looking to hang the vice president or kidnap the speaker of the House. Tens of millions of others believe the lies that inspired the attack.

If you hold Trump and his party responsible for this madness, as I do, it's tempting to write off the whole GOP. The COVID deniers and election conspiracy theorists are overwhelmingly on the right. For the next two years, Democrats will control the presidency, the House, and the Senate. Why not just tell Republicans to go to hell? The answer is that propagandists thrive on polarization. They recruit and derange their followers by dismissing all criticism as partisan. To break their grip on the right half of the country, we need a fact-based alliance that crosses party lines.

That means looking for common ground everywhere. It means supporting Sen. Mitt Romney, Rep. Liz Cheney, and other Republicans when they speak the truth. It means seriously engaging with fact-based journalism at the Dispatch, the Bulwark, National Review, and other publications in the center and on the right. It means distinguishing the sins of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush from the pathologies of Trump and Newt Gingrich. In this fight, we need everyone who's willing to play by the rules of deliberative democracy. So, for at least the next four years, that's my commitment: If you believe in settling disputes by consulting evidence, I'm on your team.

Congratulate me. Thanks to computers and mathematicians, I can put away my slide rule in calculating this tidbit. Since I was born, I have passed 28,124 days from birth date to my March birthday. Or 77 years, Or 924 months. Alternative time units: 28,124 days are converted to these units: 2,429,913,600 seconds (I'm a billionaire), 674,976 hours, 28,124 days, 4017 weeks and 5 days, 7705.21% of a common year (365 days).

Hmm. How much of that time was spent wisely, productively, usefully? How much time did I enjoy snoozing or eating? Telling delightful jokes? Ah well, that's too much for my brain.



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!](#)



[Herbal Remedies Need Real Scrutiny](#)

Originally published in CNN.com

11.23.092009 By David Frum

Did you know that there exists an all-natural remedy for memory loss? Weight gain? Macular degeneration? Prostate enlargement? These products are so successful that clinical testing has already begun! Just listen to the following testimonial from an unidentified person...

As these ads blare at you from your favorite AM radio station, perhaps you wonder: How can this be legal? Since the late 1960s, aspirin makers have been trying to win the right to tell the public that a daily low-dose tablet can help pre-vent heart disease. They have been told no, and no, and no again.

Federal regulators are so nervous about over-selling aspirin's benefits that they have restricted statements about aspirin to the most bland and basic. Yet while the statements about aspirin have to be cushioned in the vaguest generalities, snake oil flim-flam can be huckstered in the most truth-defying way, thanks to a 1994 law coaxed through Congress by the people who make these drugs.

The law bears the long title of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994. It was sponsored in House of Representatives by Rep. Dan Burton, R-Indiana, and in the Senate by Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Dick Durbin, D-Illinois.

The DSHEA law draws a line between synthesized medicines like aspirin and remedies made from herbs, minerals, vitamins and amino acids. This latter group was recategorized as "dietary supplements"—that is, as foods rather than drugs.

"Drugs" are subjected to exacting scientific trial to prove them both safe and also effective. Sellers of dietary supplements are not required to prove that their remedies work. They are not even required to prove them safe—as "foods" they are presumed safe unless shown otherwise. "Drugs" must disclose any risk of side effect. (That's why those erectile dysfunction ads terrify TV audiences with their references to four-hour erections.)

Dietary supplements bear no such burden—which is why St. John's wort can be sold as an anti-depressant, without any mention of the disturbing indications that the herb weakens the effectiveness of birth control pills.

"Drug" advertising must be pre-approved by the Food and Drug Administration, which minutely reviews the ads' accuracy. Dietary supplement advertising is regulated by the Federal Trade Commission.

So long as supplements avoid promises to cure a specific disease, their sellers can say pretty much whatever they want, provided only that they have some kind of supporting evidence on file.

That evidence does not have to meet any kind of scientific test: pretty much any pattern of ink on paper will do the job. I cannot say, "My rosemary-sage-thyme-and-oregano tablets cure AIDS." But if I pay my cousin \$100 to do a few experiments, I can claim, "My tablets boost the immune system—and clinical trials are under way!"

(There is an exception to the permissive rules about advertising natural products: wine. There is substantial evidence that a glass of red wine a day reduces the risk of heart attack. The laws of most states forbid any hint or suggestion that moderate alcohol use might confer health benefits. Still, if you ask the scientists, wine has better grounds to call itself a health food than does, say, echinacea!)

Fifteen years after receiving the favor of Congress, dietary supplements have grown into a \$24 billion a year industry. Most of the products sold by the industry are merely useless.

For those who eat a balanced diet, scientists have found no quantifiable benefit from taking multivitamins. On the other hand, make their own "health choices."

Individual choice certainly sounds like the American way. But the fact is that most of us are not well positioned to make intelligent health choices.

Read the rest here: <http://bit.ly/2ZFtYyw>

"Faith: Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks without knowledge, of things without parallel." - Ambrose Bierce



By **Norm R. Allen Jr.**
Paul Kurtz Institute
Celebrating the Birthday of
Indian Humanist,
K. Veeramani

On Saturday, December 5, 2020, admirers gathered via the video chat service Zoom to celebrate the 88th birthday of Indian humanist, lawyer and social worker Dr. Krishnasamy Veeramani. (Veeramani was actually born on Dec. 2, 1933.)

Dr. Veeramani was a follower and admirer of the great Indian reformer and atheist Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, commonly known simply as Periyar. He started the Self-respect movement in India and is regarded as the Father of the Dravidian movement.

Veeramani is a courageous social justice activist who has gone to jail several times in defense of the poor and oppressed of India. In this regard he has much in common with great humanists in Nigeria such as Nobel laureate (literature) Wole Soyinka and the late educator Tai Solarin.

Solarin regularly put his life on the line while participating in pro-democracy protests against oppressive Nigerian leaders. In fact, the day before he died, he participated in a pro-democracy march against then-Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha. Nigerian soldiers apprehended Solarin, but many other Nigerian protesters demanded his release. The soldiers then drove Solarin near the end of the march and released him so that he was able to finish it. Thus, Solarin was a defender of the downtrodden until the very end of his life.

Soyinka has been to jail and had his life threatened by Nigerian authorities. He has fought against government corruption in Nigeria and Muslim extremism. When Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini placed a fatwa upon author Salman Rushdie for writing *The Satanic Verses* in 1989, Soyinka said that if any harm came to Rushdie, the world should bomb Iran with pastiches from *The Satanic Verses*. Shortly after his statement, extremist Muslims from Kano in northern Nigeria placed a fatwa upon Soyinka. After Solarin's death, Soyinka dedicated his book *The Open Sore of a Continent*, to the deceased educator.

Dr. Veeramani does much more than promote his humanist worldview. Like the late humanist giant Paul Kurtz, he believes in finding common ground with those with whom he disagrees on various issues. Before he died, Kurtz, through the Institute for Science and Human Values (now the Kurtz Institute) was eager to work for a better world by drawing upon the common moral deficiencies and ethical excellences embraced by human beings from all backgrounds and from all over the world. They include sharing, kindness, honesty, and so forth.

Dr. Veeramani also has great respect for the youth, their contributions to society, and their potential. He understands that despite their lack of life experiences, they still have much to teach older people on many subjects.

Similarly, Dr. Veeramani is not elitist. He places great value upon practical training and sees great worth in people from all

classes. He believes that theory and practice are equally important and values honest work regardless of one's position in life.

Like Kurtz, Dr. Veeramani is also an institution builder. He recognizes that without institutions, ideas could be cast aside and important movements could be destroyed. To this end, Dr. Veeramani has been heavily involved in a major institution of higher learning furthering the work and ideals of the aforementioned Periyar.

It is more important than ever to have leaders with Dr. Veeramani's vision, energy, courage and determination. India is becoming increasingly reactionary and authoritarian. Hindu nationalists are becoming increasingly militant, influential, powerful and dangerous.

Perhaps the best evidence of this troubling phenomenon is opposition to the so-called "love jihad," in which militant Hindu men accuse Muslim men of marrying Hindu women to convert them to Islam. Some critics go so far as to claim that the Muslim men rape and kidnap the women. Others go so far as to contend that this is all part of an international Muslim conspiracy.

One Indian state has already passed a law aimed at preventing Muslim men from marrying Hindu women. Four other states are planning similar laws. (Many Hindus do not object to Hindu men marrying Muslim women.) These kinds of laws are clearly undemocratic and anti-humanistic, and Dr. Veeramani would have to agree.

Dr. Veeramani has been a valuable and consistent defender of women's rights. Complete equality of opportunity between the sexes is integral to humanism and democracy. In many countries, women are becoming increasingly involved in positions of leadership in the organized humanist movement. Women throughout Black America, the Philippines, Uganda and other parts of the globe are becoming increasingly outspoken among humanists.

For this reason, it would be great to see more Indian women networking with their humanist counterparts in other parts of the world. For example, "women of color" hold a major humanist gathering every year in the U.S. Sikivu Hutchinson of Los Angeles has been a major leader in this highly successful event. More Indian humanists need to participate.

Finally, Dr. Veeramani's example could be of great value to organized humanists in Africa. Since the 1990s, African humanists have been interested in working with Indian humanists. Africans and Indians have much in common culturally and in numerous other ways.

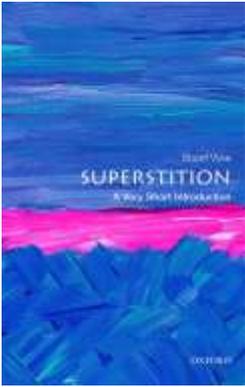
Let us all move forward using Dr. Veeramani's sterling example. Indeed, if such is the case, organized humanism will be in great hands for years to come.

12/20

Norm R. Allen, Jr. is the editor of two ground-breaking books: *African-American Humanism: An Anthology*, and *The Black Humanist Experience: An Alternative to Religion*. He is currently writing a third book, *Secular, Successful, and Black: 25 Profiles*. For 21 years, Allen had been the first and only full-time African American secular humanist to travel the world promoting secular humanism. He has spoken on numerous radio and television shows including National Public Radio and to 72 humanist groups in 30 African nations. His writings have appeared in numerous books and encyclopedias, including *Voices for Evolution*, published by the National Center for Science Education.

Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info



Despite the dominance of science in today's world, superstitious beliefs - both traditional and new - remain surprisingly popular. A recent survey of adults in the United States found that 33 percent believed that finding a penny was good luck, and 23 percent believed that the number seven was lucky.

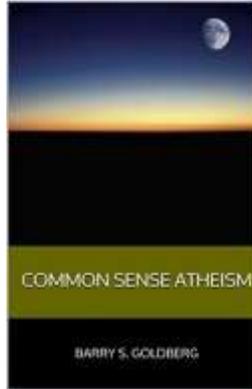
This Very Short Introduction explores the nature and surprising history of superstition from antiquity to the present. For two millennia, superstition was a label derisively applied to foreign religions and unacceptable religious practices, and its primary purpose was used to separate groups and assert religious and social authority. After the Enlightenment, the superstition label was still used to define groups, but the new dividing line was between reason and unreason. Today, despite our apparent sophistication and technological advances, superstitious belief and behaviour remain widespread, and highly educated people are not immune. Stuart Vyse takes an exciting look at the varieties of popular superstitious beliefs today and the psychological reasons behind their continued existence, as well as the likely future course of superstition in our increasingly connected world.

For some atheists, it's enough to simply not believe in God. Some people believe, but you don't. And that's OK.

Other atheists, however, find themselves constantly being asked to justify why they don't believe in God, to explain how they can possibly have morals without believing in God, to respond to various arguments that supposedly prove the existence of God, to acknowledge that America was founded as a "Christian" nation, etc. And if you don't have a background in philosophy, formal logic, comparative religions, ancient history, and various scientific fields, it can be a bit daunting to attempt to respond to questions and assertions like these.

Well, fear not! "Common Sense Atheism" is a collection of original essays that address these issues and many others in clear and easy to understand language, with just a dollop of humor to make it all go down smoothly. These essays will help you understand and explain to others why a lack of belief in God really is the only rational choice.

After all, you shouldn't need a PhD to defend your lack of belief.



(B&N has the newest 2013 edition.) Tracing attacks on free speech from Plato's Republic to America's campuses and newsrooms, Jonathan Rauch provides an engaging and provocative attack on those who would limit free thought by restricting free speech. Rauch explores how the system for producing knowledge works in a liberal society, and why it has now become the object of a powerful ideological attack. Moving beyond the First Amendment, he defends the morality, rather than the legality, of an intellectual regime that relies on unfettered and often hurtful criticism. Kindly Inquisitors is a refreshing and vibrant essay, casting a provocative light on the raging debates over political correctness and multiculturalism.

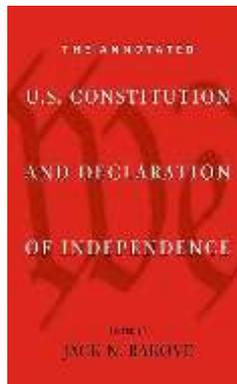
"Fiercely argued. . . . What sets his study apart is his attempt to situate recent developments in a long-range historical perspective and to defend the system of free intellectual inquiry as a socially productive method of channeling prejudice."—Michiko Kakutani, New York Times

"Like no other, this book restates the core of our freedom and demonstrates how great, and disregarded, the peril to that freedom has become."—Joseph Coates, Chicago Tribune

"The philosophical defense of free speech and free thought that seems to have been forgotten. . . . A powerful argument."—Diane Ravitch, Wall Street Journal

Here in a newly annotated edition are the two founding documents of the United States of America: the Declaration of Independence (1776), our great revolutionary manifesto, and the Constitution (1787-88), in which We the People forged a new nation and built the framework for our federal republic. Together with the Bill of Rights and the Civil War amendments, these documents constitute what James Madison called our political scriptures and have come to define us as a people. Now a Pulitzer Prize winning historian serves as a guide to these texts, providing historical contexts and offering interpretive commentary.

In an introductory essay written for the general reader, Jack N. Rakove provides a narrative political account of how these documents came to be written. In his commentary on the Declaration of Independence, Rakove sets the historical context for a fuller appreciation of the important preamble and the list of charges leveled against the Crown. When he glosses the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the subsequent amendments, Rakove once again provides helpful historical background, targets language that has proven particularly difficult or controversial, and cites leading Supreme Court cases. A chronology of events provides a framework for understanding the road to Philadelphia. The general reader will not find a better, more helpful guide to our founding documents than Jack N. Rakove



The Matt Cooper Humanist Lending Library

Humanist Society members can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, at any meeting. Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated. [Brad Perryman](#) is our new librarian.

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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. We strongly emphasize creative childrearing. You can connect with other families dealing with the same problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly humanist way of life.

Jennifer wrote three books: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, & *The Bully Vaccine*.

Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. Come and do something fun, socialize, enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, a museum, go swimming, & sometimes we leave the kids at home. We organize Tampa & 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. Please join us on [Facebook](#).

Thanks, Jennifer Hancock

The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers (MAAF)

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 freethinking members.

Tampa Bay Thinkers

Be part of the conversation on Monday March online at 7 PM **Topic:**



See our Meetup page for meeting [link](#)

We meet monthly to escape shallow, petty talk and to ponder broad, complex yet practical subjects. We expect members to proffer evidence and use logic in conclusions, but expect all present to keep the meeting FUN for all. We teach, and don't scold. We expect the conversation to move without getting stuck so sometimes, we are forced to "agree to disagree" and move on.

We arrive and part as friends. There are no personal attacks, but each IDEA goes under the microscope. Members agree, others disagree, often with enthusiasm! We have no gates, and no gatekeepers. All are welcome and we tolerate no personal attacks, sarcasm, or even indirect denigration. IDEAS RULE and stand on their own. Finally, we are "thinkers", not "doers". Come, join us, participate, learn, exercise your brain, but mostly HAVE FUN. Learn more [here](#).

Karen Assel, Leader

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Facebook: <http://bit.ly/38mveZH>

Join us to discuss



Saturday Afternoon 3 PM, March on Zoom.

Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay welcomes all who are interested in Jewish history, culture, and tradition independent of supernatural explanations. We believe human beings are responsible for their own choices and making the world a better place through science and reason. Join us for discussions, lectures, cultural events,

Ethical Humanism, also called Ethical Culture, is an evolving body of ideas that inspires Ethical Societies. Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity (*Humanist Manifesto III*). For Ethical Humanists, the ultimate religious questions are not about the existence of gods or an afterlife, but rather, "How can we create meaningfulness in this life?" and "How should we treat each other?"

The American Ethical Union was founded in 1877 by Felix Adler in New York, and currently has over 30 member societies.

UU St. Pete Thursday Citizens' Café

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

100 Mirror Lake Dr. N., St. Petersburg



UU Humanists of Clearwater

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



UU Humanists of Tampa

Public Discussion, 2nd Thursday eve from 7-9 PM.
11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa



HUSBAY is only holding meetings on Wednesdays via Zoom. We don't plan the topics much in advance. People interested in joining us can contact dbhelgager@comcast.net or text to 941-350-0927.



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 such as Darwin Day in February, Solstice day in December, and other activities all year long.

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 West Central Florida groups identified with the secular, freethought, Humanist, Atheist movement.

As this momentum continues to

Hear a secular point of view on local radio.

Listen to:
The Voice of Reason
on WTAN Radio Network from Clearwater.



University of South Florida Humanities Institute !
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 • 7:00 PM (EST) • ONLINE

REMEMBERING THE OCOEE ELECTION DAY MASSACRE AND RE-LEARNING US HISTORY

How do the tragic events that transpired in Orange County intersect with the broader histories of the African American freedom struggle as well as today's efforts at historical truth and reconciliation in the age of Black Lives Matter? Finally, what is our role as educated individuals in making sure that future generations never forget the Ocoee Massacre? The author will draw from his book *Emancipation Betrayed* as well as more than 20 years of involvement in local history initiatives in Ocoee.

[Register Here](#)

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. Questions? send an email to: spaceexaminer@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 St. Petersburg College/Gibbs Campus, 6605 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710, at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)



M.A.R.S. - Tampa Astronomy Club

Come 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 7:00 to



USF Freethinkers

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: Contact: <https://orgsync.com/87429/chapter>



TBCoR Leadership Team 2021

Eileen Stafford, AoF

Bill Norsworthy, UUCH

Mark Brandt, UUCH

Chris Brown, MASH

Jenn Hancock, GTBHF

Rick O'Keefe, CFI

David Vangsness, TBS

Jim Peterson, HSS, TBPC, CoR Facilitator



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – March, 2021 Calendar
 Because of CV-19, all gatherings in-person are cancelled pending further notice.
 See our Meetup site for more/ONLINE:
www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason



CFI in BRANDON – Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Nights	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
TRI-COUNTY – Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	
West Central Florida & beyond – Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
DUNEDIN – Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast , see Pg. 2	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists Zoom on the 2nd Saturday at 2 PM !	
E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists	
E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary! Page 12.	
N. PINELLAS AREA – CFI Freethought Supper	Not meeting pending resumption of “normal life” , Seating is limited to 25! For CFI & TBS paid members only + one time guest. http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
New TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP: No program until life resumes! http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
ZOOM – CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. RSVP is required. Must have read the book under discussion to attend. http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
ZOOM – Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively monthly discussions. Know the topic or get laughed at. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/2DVtwCd	
ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates monthly, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	
TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Local & national Zooms until Covid is dealt with. Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	For families only! Family outings & other monthly activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	