

# Freethought News

Vol. 9 No. 4, April 2020

Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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* TBCoR member	

## Mental Health, Isolation and Lockdowns

*It is not going to be easy – make sure that you stay in touch by phone or the internet. Show you have not forgotten elderly and vulnerable people....don't feel you have to offer helpful advice if you don't really know what would help – just listening attentively to what other people are going through and not invalidating their feelings will help.*

Since an increasingly large number of people are self isolating voluntarily or in enforced “lockdowns” around the world it is important to understand what that means for peoples’ mental health. The longer this crisis lasts, and the more people are obliged to isolate themselves, the greater the mental health impact across society will be.

I used to work in the UK voluntary sector mental health services as a “development worker” – developing projects and activities for people with mental health issues. I got into this role and job because in the late 1970s and 1980s I had mental health problems. This led me to think a lot about what was happening when I had mental health crises. I thought too about the mental health crises of others. Over time I arrived at an interpretation of mental health problems in which isolation, solitude, and loneliness played an important part.

In the ordinary way of thinking people with mental health problems are typically on their own because of their mental health problems – but I began to think that it made as much sense, indeed more, to interpret things the other way round. In other words not that people are on their own because they are mad – but that they are mad because they are on their own. This was particularly true if they were in a state that I described as “confrontational isolation”. In other words where someone falls out with everyone in their social network. Even if one has not fallen out with everyone, to be isolated, and in a state of high negative emotion, is dangerous for mental health.

How difficult it is to be isolated day to day will depend a lot on how many resources we have in our environment. People who are homeless are most vulnerable of all and cannot self isolate.

## Isolation undermines reality-checking so that fantasy thinking flourishes

If they are isolated people cannot easily “reality check” things that are important to them – like, for example, what other people are thinking, feeling and doing. For example, if you are on your own and you feel vulnerable it is easy to be paranoid and afraid and you have no way of knowing if you are in danger or not. Such a state of affairs inclines to emotionally charged fantasy. The point here is that without communication what is really going on with and for the other people in your life is inevitably a guess. They may have totally forgotten you. They may be coming to get you. They may be worried for you. You don't know. You are in the dark. Isolation = vulnerability + uncertainty and you may endlessly speculate in hopeful or fearful thinking about what is going on.

That can make “lockdowns” so psychologically challenging. We have radio, TV and the internet. We have telephones. So we can still maintain media-ted contact with each other. Nevertheless isolation is emotionally tough.

Continued on [page 4](#)

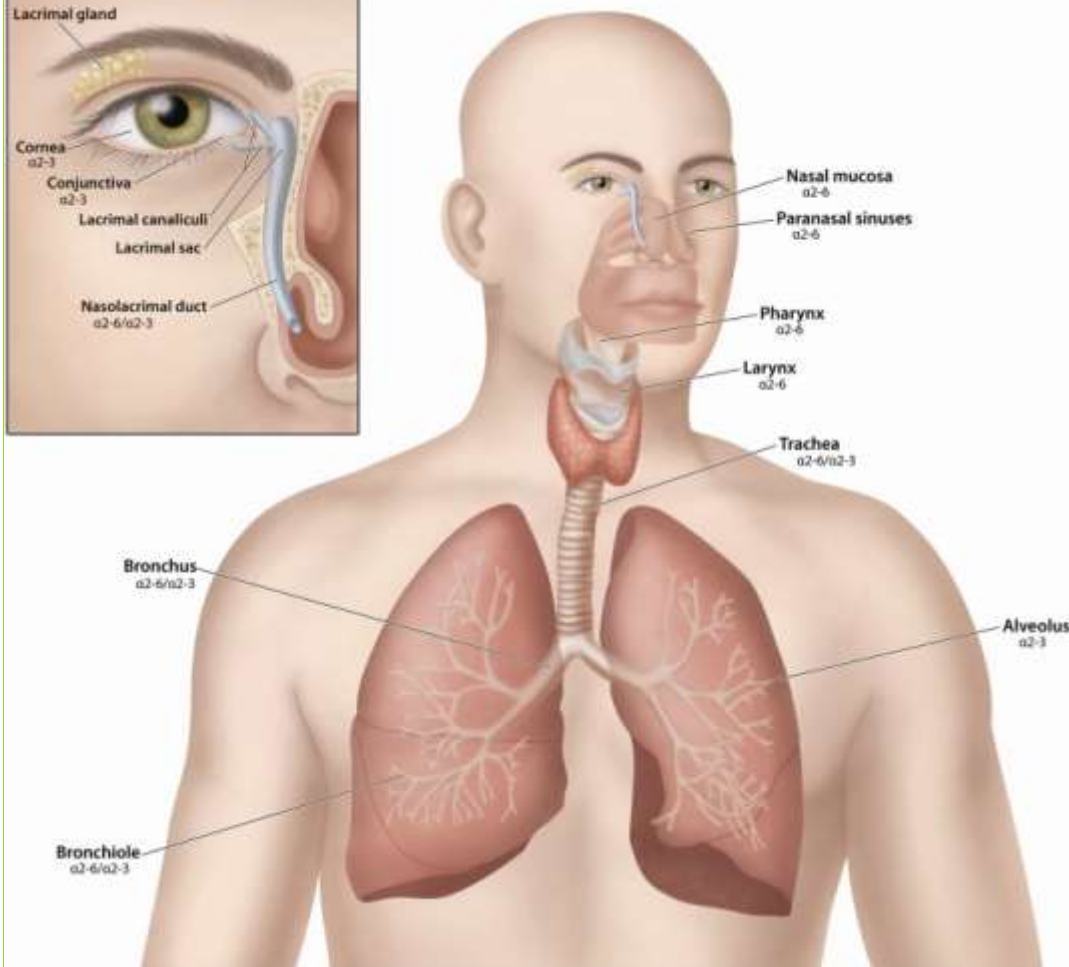
**NB.** Until further notice, following best-practices and official medical recommendations, **all group gatherings are postponed** due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will **let you know here when ....**

**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>  
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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](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)



## Hello fellow humanists,

Here's the facts as I know them via professional sources to date with regard to the current discussion:

From all that is known at this point in the infectious disease (pathology) world-wide community, food safety experts/researchers at the prestigious universities worldwide as well as their related governmental experts agree this novel coronavirus (SARS-COV-2) is like the other 6 known types with respect not infecting via food-borne ingestion which is in contradistinction to the infamous norovirus and rotavirus families (ex. -cruise ships food services). There has never been a documented food-borne case in the corona family. The coronavirus is designed to attach to and penetrate exclusively through the upper airway (mouth/nose) and lower airways' (bronchi/bronchioles/alveoli) intact (i.e., no wound needed) mucous membrane linings AND

theoretically via the eye's mucous membrane conjunctiva and lacrimal (tear) duct lining which drains into the nasopharynx) BUT not intact skin (an open wound could be an entryway). This predilection for epithelial-lined respiratory (not gut!) mucous membranes is known as an epithelial tropism. Therefore, routine approved sanitary handling of food and its packaging is adequate - it is all about then soap washing your hands to avoid subsequent mucous membrane contact as opposed to ingesting from your hands E. Coli, certain viruses, etc. If after handling the food or fomite (the surface capable of transmitting an infectious organism whether it be glass, clothing, metals, packaging materials) your hands then touch, with a sufficient viral load (number of active viral particles aka virions) you are likely to become infected besides via respiratory droplets (cough, sneeze up close and personal) or the more insidious microscopic aerosol (mist) within the 6 foot

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perimeter. (instead of 'gorillas in the midst' it's coronavirus or think Peanuts' character Pigpen)

I will keep daily monitoring all of the medical/dental/nursing professional journals via my emeritus medical library privileges at Tufts University and free access to all of Elsevier publishing company's product portfolio via my editorial review board privileges) and will update you if something different than the above is published particularly with respect to food handling and consumption.

**Mike Kahn**

Info gathered from Professional sources. 4-20

**Please Join or renew**  
**Humanist Society of the Suncoast**

## Annual Dues

Regular -\$25

Reg. Couple -\$30.

Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin above)

Life -\$200. (Pin)

Life Couple -\$250 (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 new treasurer, **Scott Wilson** [scott33761@yahoo.com](mailto: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

## The Movable Feast

the Humanist Society's monthly social Dinner

Join us Apr. 19th at Applebee's at 5 O'clock for American style cuisine, and decidedly the best company:

**Cancelled!**  
Applebees  
For map Menu

5110 E Bay Dr Clearwater, FL 33764

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

## Wry Eye with a View

My plans for this weekend



## 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

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**Lois Fries,** Secretary  
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~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**Jim Peterson, Editor**  
E-Mail us at:  
[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

### Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:

[Secular Therapy Org.](http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/)  
[Cognitive Neurosciences](http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/)

### Or call:

Lynda Gurvitz,  
<http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/>  
(727) 725-8820

**Or,** Joel Schmidt  
[www.floatoncounseling.com](http://www.floatoncounseling.com)  
321-604-7637



Mental Health... continued from [page 1](#)

Now add the fear that we, and loved ones, may get infected and may die. To remain sane we have to watch the news to stay in touch with what is happening – but what emotions occur when we go on twitter and see a convoy of ten Italian army heavy trucks carrying coffins to a crematorium?

The point here is that our thinking can get driven by powerful emotions while on our own when confronted by the awful reality of this pandemic. Thoughts that are fearful about the worst that might happen. Thoughts that are swept along by a powerful sense of our own helplessness.

## Mental states that may flourish in emotionally charged isolation

Such mental states may then evoke (a) an inability to concentrate on meaningful activities, a state of distractedness and/or wandering off mentally into reassuring day dreams; (b) mental flashbacks about earlier events in life where one felt powerless and afraid because one did not understand what was going on and was too young to act (regression) (c) noticing the contents of one's own mind as an internal monologue – powerfully charged with emotion (hearing voices – perhaps with different voices for different emotions and situations).

It is not just powerful fear that may drive our thoughts – anger and hope may too – but in ways that are unrealistic and unverifiable. The point about isolation is that one has neither the time nor the contacts and ability to check the truth of our own emotion driven thought processes.

For example it is quite natural in the time of the coronavirus to have strong political opinions about how the crisis has been and should be managed – indignation and anger may be fully justified if and when situations are mismanaged by officials or politicians.

BUT...how does one know why they do what they do – is it malevolence, is it incompetence, are they overwhelmed or have we misinterpreted them totally? Or have the politicians misinterpreted us. They speak about us panicking but is this so? We are accused of stripping the shelves bare of loo rolls but if you have a big family and there is to be two months lock down or longer is the problem that there are not enough loo rolls available on the shelves? Are we being kept in the dark so that we do not panic? If so maybe they are creating a panic because fears flourish where there is a lack of knowledge. Are “they” treating us like children as one public health expert has alleged. Are they assuming that they know best and condescending us like the patricians they regard themselves as being? Many of these questions are unanswerable from the information available but add to the confusion and is a source of anxiety and turmoil in its own right.

Paradoxically even our hope can sometimes be a problem. You may ask: how could hope be a problem? The poet T.S.Elliot writes in his poem East Coker

*I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope  
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,  
For love would be love of the wrong thing...*

Some of us are hoping for a salvation in which we are the saviour – our vulnerability, our terror and powerlessness is too much to bear so in our day dreams we turn the powerlessness upside down and become a someone. We become fantastically important superstars...like Donald Trump who has the answer for everything and is doing an absolutely fantastic job...or making it up as he goes along and totally unable to be objective.

This is particularly because Trump and Johnson is surrounded by institutions that

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## World Humanist Congress News

As we continue to track information from the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States' Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and government agencies regarding public health guidelines and travel advisories, we take seriously the growing urgency to make a decision about whether the Congress will continue.

**We are still evaluating whether or not to cancel the Congress, but it is increasingly likely that we will have to do so.**

At this time, we recommend that you DO NOT book airline travel or hotel rooms for the Congress until further notice.

Hotel rooms that you have already reserved at the Hyatt Regency Miami may be cancelled up to 48 hours prior to scheduled check-in without penalty. (Accommodations you may have reserved elsewhere are subject to the cancellation rules you agreed to at the time of reservation.)

We will issue notifications immediately when a final decision is made regarding the status of the Congress. If the event is cancelled registration fees will be refunded (minus a processing fee of \$50).

## Humanist Quotes

**Many people consider this Roman philosopher and historian to be one of the first humanists.**

*“Friendship arises from nature as such, rather than from some neediness: from the application of the mind, along with a kind of love, rather than from thinking about how much advantage the relationships might bring.”*

*“Men are like wine: age sours the bad and improves the good.”*

*“Truth is corrupted as much by lies as by silence.”*

*“No well-informed person has declared a change of opinion to be inconstancy.”*

Like many of his contemporaries, the philosopher Cicero was persecuted on many occasions because of the political mess that was [the Roman Empire](#). In the end, they declared him an enemy of the state and executed him. Nevertheless, his wisdom and legacy live on forever through his work.

Click here



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

## Trump administration launches all out attack on EPA!

Late last week, the Trump administration announced it would waive enforcement of almost all environmental laws. It's supposedly due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but there's no end date and polluting industries had requested this just days before. Learn more from the nation's environmental organization's websites.

Contact your congressional representatives as soon as possible.



## March for Science 2020

**April 22, 2020 | Worldwide** Join us for a Global Day of Action on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

We may not actually “march” for science, but there are other ways in which can champion the idea of a rational, well ordered view of the world which may give us an opportunity to allow our species and civilization to continue. [Learn more](#)



**SAVE THE DATE: May 1-10 -- Secular Week of Action with focus on Climate Change.**  
**Visit [HERE for Climate](#) for ideas and look for more details coming soon!**

Science notes....

For science news, see: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>



Mental Health... continued from [Page 4](#)

are obsessed by retaining their power and credibility by being seen to make the “right decisions”. They also feel the need to redirect everyone’s fear, anger and indignation onto someone else to make sure that it is not directed at them – in a time of crisis there is competition for who is to play the role of scapegoat.

## Scapegoating

Vulnerable people can become scapegoats too. Vulnerable people live lives where they are frequently ignored by petty officials and/or may be persecuted by them. The emotional state of neediness by vulnerable people may lead them to insistent claims for help and attention that others, who are themselves overwhelmed by the same crisis, find a distraction adding to the unbearable pressure. In the end the decision makers unload their anger and desperation with an attack on the needy people that will not leave them with any space. “Look we have to operate a triage and you are in the third stream – will someone lock this person away.”

Mostly scapegoats are weak and vulnerable people. The anger and desperation generated by a crisis cannot usually be directed at people more powerful than yourself. That would be dangerous – they may remember and later take revenge. So powerful negative emotions are re-directed downwards and reasons are found to justify and rationalize the persecution. People find themselves doing ugly things. Then they must do those things again....and again... Then they cut themselves off from what they are doing. Then they start to enjoy what they are doing because it makes them feel powerful. It gives them a sense of agency in a time of chaos as they take away the agency of others. To justify doing it they demonize the one’s they are persecuting and tell themselves that their cruelty is for their own good, for the good of everyone.

Yet in this case vulnerable people are likely to be sources of infection because they do not have the means to protect themselves and in their extreme vulnerability are likely to become erratic, distracted at too many conflicting demands on them. This renders their lives unmanageable because they have no where of their own to keep themselves separate and manage personal hygiene.

These remarks extend to prisoners who are kept in conditions that are optimal for the spread of disease – including spreading it to prison warders and other staff.

## Contrasting the isolated to the ‘well connected’

There is an irony here. While the most vulnerable in our society like homeless people and prisoners are unable to protect themselves by keeping themselves apart – this is also true, with this disease, of the ruling elite.

If you study how the elite keep and exercise their power it is not only by using the fabulous amount of money that they have, the “purchasing power”, it is also by using their “well connectedness”.

To be a part of the ruling elite you must be very intensively networked. A host of institutions exist to ensure that powerful people in one field – finance, energy, media, military and military industrial complex, manufacturing, academia – are able to easily

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# 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



The broadcast is on hiatus for now. Previous programs are available **on the internet** [www.youtube.com/atheistforum](http://www.youtube.com/atheistforum). Now, tune in to VoR See [page 13!](#)  
Contact us: [info@atheistsoffloridainc.org](mailto:info@atheistsoffloridainc.org)



The Atheist Community of Polk County, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) Florida non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting the separation of church and state and promoting a positive atheist community.

We are a growing community of atheists, freethinkers, skeptics and humanists organizing in Polk County, Florida to network, socialize, work in the community, provide educational speakers and more. We are making efforts to expand our programming, with emphasis on scheduling events in various places around the county, at different days/times, etc. so more people can find something to enjoy that's convenient.

## Apr. Events [Details—click here](#)

Apr 19, 5 PM Join us for dinner with members of the Humanist Society. At Applebees See Page 3 details Location, etc.

*meetup*  
Be sure to check for changes and RSVP!

**Apr.**  
Register for our on-line meet below.

Reasons you should join our **new online real-time meeting**: Stay tuned for more details. Register at: <https://www.free2think.org/>

### 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](http://www.aof.ngo)

Gov. Ron DeSantis has made a decision that will cause Floridians to die, because he wants to show how much he loves religion. We are outraged — and you should be, too.

**Please take a moment to tell DeSantis that churches cannot be exempt from bans on large gatherings. Leave a message at the Governor's office (850) 717-9337**

### Mental Health... continued from [page 5](#)

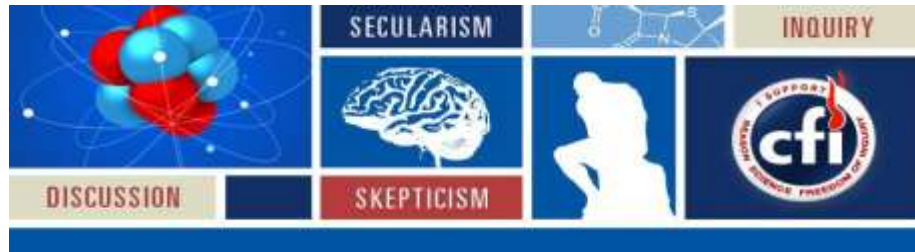
connect, as needed, with other powerful people in others. In a global economy institutions exist in an international network.

The elite are at the other end of the spectrum from the people living in the hell of social isolation. They are highly connected — and not just through telephone wires and internet communications — they are connected in person. “Well connectedness” operates through and in political assemblies and parliaments, in committees, in clubs, in gala events and garden parties, at palaces, stately This is explained in my book [Credo](#) in chapter 31 where I anticipated a situation like this. Chapter 31 is titled “Life Management, Stability and Life Transitions” see

<http://www.credoeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/credo.pdf>

Also <http://strategyforlosers.blogspot.com/2008/04/de-growth-economy-and-lifestyles.html> and <http://www.bgmi.us/web/bdavey/Breakdowns.htm>

See also my review of Anthony Storr's book at <http://www.bgmi.us/web/bdavey/Solitude.htm>



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

**What's coming up in April?** [Click this](#) for details & to RSVP)  
**Most group gatherings are postponed due to Coronavirus.**

#### Secular Observances, April 2020:

April Full Month: GENOCIDE AWARENESS MONTH

April 1: Mail a check to Rick made out to "cash" ;-)

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

Apr 6: National Tartan Day

Apr 13: Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

Apr 15: Tax Day (?)

April 17: DAY OF SILENCE

April 21: "Holocaust Remembrance Day"

April 22: Earth Day (4th in St. Pete., 19th in Tampa)

Apr 23 Thursday Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

April 24: ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY

### Google News for April

Pick of the tech this year is Google Tulip. With an extremely [detailed technical spec](#) and glossy promotional video, this development allows you to talk to your tulips, and discover just what it is they are thinking about. Spoiler alert: sunshine, soil and water. [Google Tulip promotional video](#). (Available on April 1.)

SaganTheCat says: as an agnostic atheist I always pull people up on this if they try to suggest there is some sort of conflict [between agnosticism and atheism]. often people need to understand that one can be an both or just one or the other.

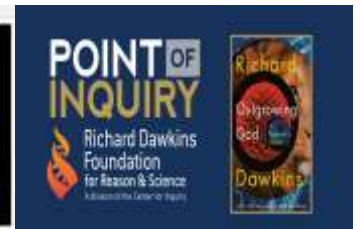
Usually people think atheists are arrogant because it's received wisdom. the term arrogant atheist is a meme where arrogant agnostic is not. personally I find most self-styled "agnostics" far more arrogant. in fact if someone tells me they're agnostic I always ask "agnostic atheist or agnostic theist?" just to watch them struggle to invent yet another fake, safe middle-ground

The idea of arrogance just comes from the fact that atheism is easily and regularly mis-represented as an anti-religion. the most common times you will hear the word atheist is from the mouths of prominent god-botherers talking about the enemy

**The God Delusion** converted many agnostics into atheists, not by proving the agnostic position as false but by proving the agnostics reading it were atheists all along. This is what upset theists because previously agnostics were fair game for conversion, just unsure individuals waiting for the right religion to come along or at least a potential ally against the straw bogeyman.

"When I became convinced that the universe is natural, that all the ghosts and gods are myths, there entered into my brain, into my soul, into every drop of my blood the sense, the feeling, the joy of freedom. The walls of my prison crumbled and fell. The dungeon was flooded with light and all the bolts and bars and manacles became dust. I was no longer a servant, a serf or a slave. There was for me no master in all the wide world - not even in infinite space. I was free - free to think, to express my thoughts - free to live to my own ideal - free to live for myself and those I loved - free to use all my faculties, all my senses - free to spread imagination's wings - free to investigate, to guess and dream and hope - free to judge and determine for myself - free to reject all ignorant and cruel creeds, all the "inspired" books that savages have produced, and all the barbarous legends of the past - free from popes and priests - free from all the "called" and "set apart" - free from sanctified mistakes and holy lies - free from the fear of eternal pain - free from the winged monsters of the night - free from devils, ghosts and gods. For the first time I was free. There were no prohibited places in all the realms of thought - no air, no space, where fancy could not spread her painted wings - no chains for my limbs - no lashes for my back - no fires for my flesh - no master's frown or threat - no following another's steps - no need to bow, or cringe, or crawl, or utter lying words. I was free. I stood erect and fearlessly, joyously, faced all worlds."

~ Robert Green Ingersoll (*Why I Am an Agnostic*, 1896)





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**.

## A Clear Vision for 2020: CFI's Progress Report

We are in the midst of confusing and uncertain times. Misinformation pollutes the public discourse to the point of exhaustion as truth obscured and rights are diminished. At the dawn of a new decade, clarity seems to be in short supply. As cliché as it might sound, the year 2020 suggests a time to focus, to see clearly the challenges we face, and our potential to meet those challenges.

Today we are proud to present the **Center for Inquiry's Progress Report**. By telling the story of our work in 2019, this report shows how we have sharpened our focus for 2020.

Our mission is to bring about a better, brighter world for everyone.

We realize that better world by relying on facts, evidence, and critical thinking. Yet, always with an eye toward compassion. We reject the imaginary strictures of religious dogma and the effort to impose them on all of us. We expose the fraud of pseudoscience that endangers our health and our planet. We are powered by a thriving, active community of supporters like you who share our vision.

### SEE THE REPORT

In our new Progress Report, you'll see how you have helped put the Center for Inquiry (CFI) at the forefront of some of the defining issues of our time. In one short year, we have taken on massive corporations and industries in the fight against fake medicine. We have brought the spark of scientific discovery to teachers and students across the country and opened new eyes to the wonders of science around the world. We have saved the lives of courageous dissidents persecuted for questioning religion in faraway lands and fought back against the forces of theocracy right here in the United States.

And all the while, we made great new friends and allies, grew our community, and had a hell of a lot of fun.

When I hear from people that religion doesn't hurt anything, I say, really? Well besides wars, the Crusades, the Inquisitions, 9-11, ethnic cleansing, the suppression of women, the suppression of homosexuals, fatwas, honor killings, suicide bombings, arranged marriages to minors, human sacrifice, burning witches, and systematic sex with children, I have a few little quibbles. And I forgot blowing up girls' schools in Afghanistan. ~ Bill Maher

See for yourself. Check out the **CFI Progress website** now, and learn how the work you made possible in 2019 has given us all a clearer view into the future. And the future looks bright.

## Why has the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science merged with the Center for Inquiry?

Quite simply, **CFI** and **RDFRS** have similar objectives and it makes eminent good sense to combine their resources. CFI's stated mission is to foster a secular society based on reason, science, and humanist values, and RDFRS shares that goal. And CFI shares the stated mission of RDFRS: to remove the influence of religion in science education and public policy and eliminate the stigma that surrounds atheism and non-belief. To put it another way, both organizations seek to make the world a better place for everyone by advocating for science and reason over faith and pseudoscience in all areas of public life, by defending the rights and equality of nonbelievers, and by exemplifying and acting on the values of humanism.

While sharing common goals, both organizations bring to this merger a dynamic mix of different strengths and abilities for achieving those goals. The Center for Inquiry carries with it a rich institutional history, a global network of branches and affiliates, and a vast well of knowledge and expertise in several fields, including science, public policy, philosophy, grassroots action, community building, international activism, political lobbying, and paranormal investigation. The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science brings to the table the unmatched global renown and intellect of one of the preeminent minds of our time, as well as the Foundation's record of passionate advocacy, creative and groundbreaking initiatives and campaigns, and considerable multimedia savvy.

Rather importantly, it also comes with the intellect, talent, and record of accomplishment in the person of Robyn Blumner, who will lead the combined organizations as CEO.

By combining their talent, brainpower, and resources, they now become the largest freethought organization in the United States. As a result of this merger, they will have greater success in advancing their shared mission.

You wonder, "How can I help sustain the work of CFI & RDFRS, **CFIOnCampus**, **Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science**, **Secular Rescue**, **Secular Celebrant Certification**, **Openly Secular**, **CFILibraries**, ... and **Quackwatch**?

Simply go here: <http://bit.ly/2TeOeU6>





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!](#)



## Quackwatch

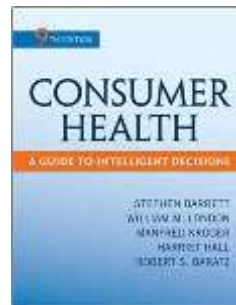
which is operated by Stephen Barrett, M.D., is a network of Web sites and mailing lists maintained by the [Center for Inquiry](#) (CFI). The sites focus on health frauds, myths, fads, fallacies, and misconduct. Their main goal is to provide [quackery](#)-related information that is difficult or impossible to get elsewhere. To help visitors with special areas of interest, there are sites that cover autism, chiropractic, dentistry, multilevel marketing, and many other problematic areas. The Internet Health Pilot site provides links to hundreds of reliable health sites. Casewatch contains a large library of legal cases, licensing board actions, government sanctions, and regulatory actions against questionable medical products. All of these can be accessed through the "Visit Our Affiliated Sites" drop-down menu above. Their contents can be searched all at once through our search page. We also offer a [Health Fraud Discussion List](#) that has more than 600 members and [Consumer Health Digest](#), a free weekly e-mail newsletter that summarizes scientific reports, legislative developments, enforcement actions, and other information relevant to consumer protection and consumer decision-making. Its primary focus is on health, but occasionally it includes non-health scams.

### About Quackwatch

- ◇ [Mission Statement](#)
- ◇ [Tips for Navigating Our Web Sites](#)
- ◇ [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- ◇ [Recently Posted Articles](#)
- ◇ [Who Funds Quackwatch?](#)
- ◇ [Quackwatch Acts as a Healthcare Watchdog \(badcredit.org\)](#)
- ◇ [Quackwatch Compiles Trustworthy Information \(DatingNews.com\)](#)
- ◇ [Quackwatch: Vigilance Against Questionable Healthcare Claims and Their Financial Implications \(cardrates.com\)](#)
- ◇ [How to Become a Quackwatch Advisor](#)
- ◇ [Honors and Awards \(70+\) Given to Quackwatch](#)
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- ◇ [Join the Health Fraud Discussion List](#)
- ◇ [Quackwatch en Français](#)
- ◇ [Índice de traducciones al español](#)

### About Dr. Barrett

- ◇ [Biographical Sketch and Contact Information](#)
- ◇ [Curriculum Vitae](#)
- ◇ [Books and Book Chapters](#)
- ◇ [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)



### Consumer Health: A Guide to Intelligent Decisions

This new edition of the most comprehensive text available in the field continues to provide a vast amount of information to enable consumers to make wise choices regarding health products and services. It offers a panoramic view of

the health marketplace, while explaining the scientific methods that are essential for validating claims about how products and services affect health. [Order on Amazon](#)

**TBS's "\$1,000 Challenge"** -- Since 1989, Tampa Bay Skeptics has been offering its "\$1,000 Challenge" to anyone claiming the ability to demonstrate any paranormal phenomenon to us under mutually agreed-upon conditions that are properly controlled so as to eliminate the possibility of success by cheating or other non-paranormal means.

Though not always [possible due to the nature of the claimed paranormal ability](#), TBS prefers a "Challenge" structured so that the mathematical probability of a successful demonstration can be calculated -- such as determining the next coin flip, the suit of the next card in a deck, or whether the next box contains an object (supplied by the claimant) or is empty. This eliminates the need for one or more judges to subjectively opine as to whether or not the claimant has successfully fulfilled the requirements of the official test protocol, which is signed in advance by TBS's representatives and the claimant. Our required degree of difficulty of approximately 1:1,000,000 by chance guesswork (equivalent to 20 consecutive correct coin flips) is the generally accepted standard around the world for such testing.

None of the dozen or so claimants so far has succeeded, but should one someday prevail, not only would TBS's \$1,000 be awarded, but the claimant would be automatically eligible to perform a comparable test for groups offering even greater rewards, such as the California-based [Independent Investigation Group's \(IIG\) \\$50,000 prize](#).

If you have any questions or believe that you would be able to successfully demonstrate a paranormal phenomenon to us under properly controlled conditions, please [contact TBS](#).

Some past TBS "\$1,000 Challenges": <https://bit.ly/3bhs5vN>

skeptic (n): a person who searches for truth through questioning and reasoning

## Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info



A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication, *The Only Woman in the Room* is a masterpiece.

"Marie Benedict has once again brought a deserving woman out of the shadows and into the spotlight. **Hedy Lamarr**, although well-known for her triumphs on the silver screen, should be featured in history classes for her contributions to science. Compelling, fascinating, and impossible to put down, *The Only Woman in the Room* is another triumph for Benedict." — Mary O'Malley, Anderson's Bookshop (La Grange), La Grange, IL

'Explorers have to be ready to die lost,' said Russell Hoban - and hopefully they are, because many of them do. Those who seek to discover the unknown, often risk falling victim to it. Some adventurers are lost, literally, forever; some have found their hidden continent or legendary city of gold, but lost their lives. The stories in "The Lost Explorers" are tragic, mysterious, thrilling, riproaring; their subjects include heroes, villains and misguided innocents. This book features approximately 80 adventurers who gave their lives in the cause of discovery. Each chapter discusses the adventurers chronologically, and each entry covers their career up-to and including their final mission. Maps, portraits, photos and quotations from diaries and letters are featured throughout. The chapters include: 'Lost Without a Trace' (e.g. Ludwig Leichhardt, Australia, 1848; Amelia Earhart, Pacific, 1937); 'Lives Lost and Legends Born' (e.g. Francis Drake, Panama 1596; Henry Hudson, Canada, 1611; James Cook, Hawaii, 1779; Ernest Shackleton, South Georgia, 1922); 'Lost...and Found, Too Late' (e.g. John Franklin, the Arctic, 1847; Burke and Wills, Australia, 1861; Robert Falcon Scott, Antarctica, 1912; George Mallory, Mount Everest, 1924).



In these lively dialogues, the biggest names in American history explore the subjects they've come to so intimately know and understand.

- David McCullough on John Adams
- Jon Meacham on Thomas Jefferson
- Ron Chernow on Alexander Hamilton
- Walter Isaacson on Benjamin Franklin
- Doris Kearns Goodwin on Abraham Lincoln
- A. Scott Berg on Charles Lindbergh
- Taylor Branch on Martin Luther King
- Robert Caro on Lyndon B. Johnson
- Bob Woodward on Richard Nixon
- And many others, including a special conversation with Chief Justice John Roberts

Through his popular program *The David Rubenstein Show*, David Rubenstein has established himself as one of our most thoughtful interviewers. Now, in *The American Story*, David captures the brilliance of our most esteemed historians, as well as the souls of their subjects. The book features introductions by Rubenstein as well a foreword by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, the first woman and the first African American to lead our national library. Richly illustrated with archival images from the Library of Congress, the book is destined to become a classic for serious readers of American history.

Through these captivating exchanges, these bestselling and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors offer fresh insight on pivotal moments from the Founding Era to the late 20th century.



Keep your local bookstore in business. Shop locally.

<https://www.indiebound.org/>

A Community of Independent Local Bookstores

## 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.



### # TITLE AUTHOR

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 Walljasper
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. 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. Piatrelli - Palmarini
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
69. Bonk Mary Roach
70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
73. Best American Non required Reading Dave Eggers
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 Stenes
79. Thoughts of a Freethinker New Kaye \* Essential works
80. An Atheist Stranger by Herb Silverman
81. Candidate without a prayer - Herb Silverman

By **Norm R. Allen Jr.**  
 Paul Kurtz Institute for Science and  
 Human Values

## The Trouble with



## Southern Baptists



Southern Baptists have always been reactionary. Indeed, they were founded primarily to defend slavery. They have always been staunchly patriarchal and insistent that only certain Protestants can get into Heaven. Many of them have been anti-Jewish.

This last flaw has not turned off many Israelis. Southern Baptists were on hand to celebrate President Trump's provocative move of the US embassy to Jerusalem. Southern Baptist preachers even delivered sectarian prayers for the occasion.

Southern Baptists believe that the U.S. has a central role in biblical prophecy, even though the name "America" appears nowhere in the so-called good book. Many Christians simply use highly imaginative "thinking" and retrofitting to come to the conclusion that the U.S. is highly favored by God. These religious fanatics believe that the modern state of Israel will figure prominently in Christian eschatology. They believe that Israel will be at the center of the "war to end all wars," and that certain Christians will be raptured to Heaven. (Pat Robertson once even reportedly planned to film the Rapture!)

Israeli leaders seem to know that these Christian bigots do not like them or trust them. However, many Israelis seem to believe they simply have differences in theology. Many Israelis believe that reactionary Christians in the U.S. are among their best allies, and that dangerous anti-Semitism among reactionary Christians is a thing of the past.

The problem with the religious insanity of Southern Baptists is that it is *dangerous*! They are actually looking forward to World War III and they will do whatever they can to accelerate it. And in Trump they have the perfect dupe to do their bidding. Who cares how many porn stars he sleeps with as long as he can help usher in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?

Pastor Rick Wiles is especially off-the-wall. He is constantly featured on Right Wing Watch. He has stated that Muslims must be "stomped out like cockroaches." He believes Obama is truly a demon from the pits of Hell.

(However, the pastor has reportedly fallen out with Trump, and in 2017, he said that Ivanka Trump is an evil woman that practices Kabbala.)

Recently, Wiles said that antichrist refers to behavior and beliefs. He said that anyone who disbelieves that Jesus was God in human form "is antichrist." He included Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and others.

Israelis might also be interested to know that Wiles condemns homosexuality and Zionism and says that "They're driven by the same spirit." He believes that homosexuality and Zionism will rule the world simultaneously through Artificial Intelligence and high-tech surveillance of the people. This paranoid conspiracy theorist further believes that the evil figure of the Antichrist will be a homosexual Jew. (Homosexuals and Jews are, not coincidentally, despised by many Southern Baptists.)

Many Southern Baptists believe that the Antichrist will be a Jew. There is no telling how geopolitics will play out. But how could such a belief possibly bode well for Jews, especially Israelis?

White Baptist leaders are not the only ones with controversial religious beliefs. The Reverend Michael R. Jordan, pastor of the New Era Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, recently put up a sign saying "Black Folks Need to Stay Out of White Churches." This was in reaction to a White church, the Church of the Highlands, opening a new branch, headed by a Black pastor, in Jordan's Black community. Jordan has had other provocative signs with messages such as "AIDS is God's Curse on a Homosexual Lifestyle" and "White Folks Refused to Be Our Neighbors."

In 2017, a White Reverend, Chris Ashley, put up a sign at his Cowan Road Baptist Church in Gulfport Mississippi that said "Allah is Satan." He has refused to back down. And so it goes.

Despite all of this bigoted nonsense, the main stimulus for this article is the latest Southern Baptist outrage. The Reverend Grady Arnold of Cuero, Texas has stated that social justice, racial justice and global justice are evil. He has sided with Southern Baptist leader Paige Patterson, who has angered many by apparently viewing women as sex objects and implying that women in abusive relationships should stay and try to work it out. Ashley grumbled, "This social justice is creeping down into local churches. If we start down this road, where will it end?"

White Southern Baptists here are speaking the same language as White non-theists that constantly bash Social Justice Warriors (SJWs). It is this kind of bigoted mindset that demonstrates how race trumps everything. White non-theists that oppose social justice are much more likely to join forces with religious Whites of a like mind, than they are to join forces with Black non-theists, most of whom believe in social justice.

Once again, Southern Baptists are taking a lead in defense of reactionary ideas. Anyone who gives aid and comfort to such religionists is no friend of genuine progress.

**Norm r. Allen jr.** Is the editor of two ground-breaking books,

- ♦ · *African-American Humanism: An Anthology*
- ♦ · *The Black Humanist Experience: An Alternative To Religion.*
- ♦ · he is currently writing a third book, *Secular, Successful And Black: 25 Profiles.*



## 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 April 13th at the Carrolwood Cultural Center, Tampa at 7 PM/

Topic:

Learn more [here](#).

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.

## The Socrates Cafe

A monthly discussion since 2008.

Hosted by **Brent Hardaway**

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

Join us to discuss " ? "

After-talk at The Independent (5016 N. Florida Avenue).

**[Postponed]** at 3 PM in the **Seminole Heights Branch**

**Library**, 4711 N Central Ave, **Tampa**, FL, 33603. Be sure to

RSVP [HERE](#) for more information



## 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, and holiday celebrations using a Humanistic lens.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



**Next Lecture:** Monday,

**Speaker:**

**Topic:** None for now.

For more details, information, news and activities, see: <https://www.husbay.org/index.htm>

# 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 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.*

**Hear a secular  
point of view on  
local radio.**

Listen to:

***The Voice  
of Reason***

on WTAN Radio  
Network from  
Clearwater.  
Thursdays at 10 AM



## 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: [spaceaminer@gmail.com](mailto: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 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 at MOSI

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 9:00 PM. Meetings are free & open to the public.

**Details & RSVP:** <https://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/>

## University of South Florida Humanities Institute



Spring 2020 Newsletter  
Now Available!  
Complete Schedule of Events

Get all the details of our many activities such as the Book Group, Books & Caffeine, lectures. Poetry, Humanities & Hops. *Always something to involve active minds!*



# 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: [fadibitar@mail.usf.edu](mailto:fadibitar@mail.usf.edu)

## Get Your Shingle Shots Now!

The Food and Drug administration in 2017 approved the much more effective, Shingrix as the preferred alternative to Zostavax, which was approved in 2006.

Both vaccines are approved for adults age 50 and older for the prevention of shingles and related complications, whether they've already had shingles or not. If you have already had the first vaccine, get the second.

**Also, don't forget your Flu Shot!**



## TBCoR Leadership Team 2020

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, TBPCC,  
CoR Facilitator





## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – April, 2020 Calendar

Because of CV-19, all gatherings in-person are cancelled pending further notice.

See our Meetup site for more: [www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason](http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason)  
Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://www.tampabaycor.net/>



Various Sundays, 2 PM; & Friday nights	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Nights	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l</a>	
TBA – various activities	TRI-COUNTY – Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup">http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup</a>	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l</a>	
2nd Saturday, 2 PM see Pg. 2 3rd Sunday -Dinner see Pg. 2	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists">http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists</a> <b>Now on the 2nd Saturday at 2 PM !</b>	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: <a href="http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists">http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists</a>	
TBA – various astronomy activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource	Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi">http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi</a> Other events: <a href="http://bit.ly/MARS-home">http://bit.ly/MARS-home</a>	
TBA - numerous events— this semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See <a href="http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities">Web site</a> for full listing of many events & calendar. <a href="http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities">http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities</a> Locations vary! <b>Page 12.</b>	
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	<b>RSVP is required.</b> Seating is limited to 25! For CFI & TBS paid members. <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l</a>	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	N TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <b>No program this month!</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists">http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists</a>	
Various Saturdays	NE CLEARWATER – CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. <b>RSVP is required. Must have read the book under discussion to attend.</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l</a>	
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. <b>RSVP</b> here: <a href="http://bit.ly/2DVtwCd">http://bit.ly/2DVtwCd</a>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar</a>	
Various Saturdays/Sundays plus various other times/ venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l</a>	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	<b>RSVP</b> here: Family outings & other activities. Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN">http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN</a>	

Read more on the web at: [www.tampabaycor.net](http://www.tampabaycor.net)

Evolve Fish is a source for freethought paraphernalia: <http://evolvefish.com/>