

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News



Vol. 9 No. 8, August 2020

Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

What's Inside?

Suncoast Humanist Soc	2*
Tampa Humanists	2*
Post Carbon Council	5*
Atheists of Florida	6*
CFI Tampa Bay	7*
Tampa Bay Skeptics	9*
Books/Cooper Library	10
News Links	11
News Links II + CFI	12
Tampa Bay Thinkers	13
Humanist Families	13*
Military Atheists	13*
Ethical Humanism	13
Socrates Café	13
Hum. Sarasota Bay	13*
UU Humanists	13*
Freethinkers@USF	13
Secular Coalition	13
TB Technology Ctr	13
Astronomy clubs	13
Coalition of Reason	14
Unified Calendar	15
Norm Allen Commentary	16

* TBCoR member

**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.

Zoomography 101

Almost all freethought groups are having online programs on a tremendous variety of exciting and timely issues.

Many can readily be found on our Coalition of Reason Meetup site:

<https://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason/> and many more can be found throughout this newsletter. Enjoy!

The key to freedom's future...

Vote!

Primary: August 18th

General Election: November 3rd.

Check your registration and preferences now at your county elections office. They'll be happy to confirm your status, makes changes, or explain what you need to know.

Do it now.



A Virtual Celebration of Humanism
American Humanist Association 2020 Conference

More on [Page 2](#)

Secular Left to have Voice in Florida

Democrats who support religious freedom, separation of church and state, and science-based policy now have a new venue.

A new convention of Democrats who believe in a big-tent party for people of all faiths and none, including atheists, agnostics, humanists, and the other nonreligious progressives who make up nearly one third of the Democratic party.

A number of candidates running for office in Texas openly support the separation of church and state.

It's time to make this happen in Florida, starting with a **kickoff event on Thursday, July 30**. If you wish to be a part, [Register now!](#)

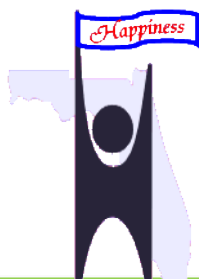


Secular Democrats of Florida starts as caucus

When a few progressive secular activists in Florida were asked to gauge interest in a caucus in the Florida Democratic Party,

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



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. XXXIII No. 8 August, 2020

DISTANT
but **together**



A Virtual Celebration of Humanism American Humanist Association 2020 Conference

AHA invites you to our **FREE** virtual conference! Humanists across the country will come together, along with exciting, thought-provoking speakers, to explore the values and principles that undergird our community.

Register now to join us from the comfort—and safety—of your own home as we bring you vibrant sessions and awards presentations.

FEATURING
Humanist of the Year



Jared Huffman
Congressman, CA-2

OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Rev. Dr.
David Breeden
Senior Minister,
First Unitarian
Society of
Minneapolis



Anjan
Chakravarty
The Appigani
Foundation Chair,
University of Miami



Krista Cox
Leadership Council
Chair, Feminist
Humanist Alliance



Debbie
Goddard
Vice President,
Programs at
American Atheists



Jé Hooper
Founder & Creative
Producer of
FrequencyHouse



Rachel Laser
Americans United
for Separation of
Church and State



Hemant Mehta
Editor,
Friendly Atheist

Saturday, August 8, 2020

11:00am-6:30pm ET (8:00am-3:30pm PST)



REGISTRATION IS FREE: conference.americanhumanist.org

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.

In continuing to keep our movement connected and inspired, we are pleased to invite you to join us for our virtual conference, "Distant but Together: A Virtual Celebration of Humanism," happening:

August 8, 2020, from 11 am - 6:30 pm ET

Register <https://conference.americanhumanist.org/>

Our Local Board Meeting

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast will have a board meeting towards the end of the month. Under consideration is the future of the group. All members are invited to contribute their ideas: contact jim@suncoasthumanist.com to let us know your thoughts and ideas.



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. (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

Why, oh Why did the chicken ...

Albert Einstein Whether the chicken crossed the road or the road crossed the chicken depends upon your frame of reference.

Aristotle To actualise its potential.

B.F. Skinner Because the external influences which had pervaded its sensorium from birth had caused it to develop in such a fashion that it would tend to cross roads, even while believing these actions to be of its own free will.

Carl Jung The confluence of events in the cultural gestalt necessitated that individual chickens cross roads at this historical juncture, and therefore synchronicitously brought such occurrences into being.

Charles Darwin It was the logical next step after coming down from the trees.

David Hume Out of custom and habit.

Douglas Adams Forty-two.

Emily Dickinson Because it could not stop for death.

Ernest Hemingway To die. In the rain.

Henry David Thoreau To live deliberately... and suck all the marrow (and small grains) out of life.

Hippocrates Because of an excess of light pink gooey stuff in its pancreas.

Jack Nicholson 'Cause it [censored] wanted to. That's the [censored] reason.

Jacques Derrida Any number of contending discourses may be discovered within the act of the chicken crossing the road, and each interpretation is equally valid as the authorial intent can never be discerned, because structuralism is DEAD, DAMMIT, DEAD!

Jean-Paul Sartre In order to act in good faith and be true to itself, the chicken found it necessary to cross the road.

J.F. von Goethe The eternal hen-principle made it do it.

Karl Marx It was a historical and dialectical inevitability.

Ludwig Wittgenstein The possibility of "crossing" was encoded into the objects "chicken" and "road", and circumstances came into being which caused the actualisation of this potential occurrence.

Machiavelli So that its subjects will view it with admiration, as a chicken which has the daring and courage to boldly cross the road, but also with fear, for whom among them has the strength to contend with such a paragon of avian virtue? In such a manner is the princely chicken's dominion maintained.

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.

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~*~*~*~*~*

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

Need Psychological Counseling?
For a secular therapist,
click:
[Secular Therapy Org.](http://fampsy.org/members/lynda-gurvitz/)
[Cognitive Neurosciences](http://fampsy.org/members/lynda-gurvitz/)

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

Or, Joel Schmidt
www.floatoncounseling.com
321-604-7637



Secular Democrats Continued from [page 1](#)
... over one hundred people stepped up to the plate in less than a week!

The next step is to expand and establish a presence, following in the footsteps of the Secular Dems in Texas and Nebraska—at [the kickoff event](#), you'll hear from their respective Chairs, Kevin Price and Rachele Walter, on **Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 pm ET**. Attendees will also hear from openly nonreligious candidates Ryan Morales and Cory Hutchinson, and elected champions of secular progressive policies, like state Rep. Michael Grieco.



Following the caucus kickoff, those who are interested in running for a position as President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer of a new secular caucus in Florida, can indicate their interest when they register for the kickoff. To learn more about these positions, [see the position descriptions here](#).

If you can't wait to get started organizing, forward this article to friends and invite them to join the [Secular Democrats of Florida Facebook group](#).



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 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

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.

Isaac Asimov

Humanists recognize that it is only when people feel free to think for themselves, using reason as their guide, that they are best capable of developing values that succeed in satisfying human needs and serving human interests.

Isaac Asimov

Humanism believes that the individual attains the good life by harmoniously combining personal satisfactions and continuous self-development with significant work and other activities that contribute to the welfare of the community.

Corliss Lamont

Humanism involves far more than the negation of supernaturalism. It requires an affirmative philosophy...translated into a life devoted to one's own improvement and the service of all mankind.

Corliss Lamont

The four characteristics of humanism are curiosity, a free mind, belief in good taste, and belief in the human race.

E.M. Forster

Life has no meaning a priori. It is up to you to give it a meaning, and value is nothing but the meaning that you choose.

Jean-Paul Sartre

The Humanist view of life is progressive and optimistic, in awe of human potential, living without fear of judgement and death, finding enough purpose and meaning in life, love and leaving a good legacy.

Polly Toynbee

A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence.

David Hume

"...[A] riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear? ...it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice, equality, and humanity. ...Social justice and progress are the absolute guarantors of riot prevention."

Martin Luther King

Click here



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

A Covid Future?

The impacts of Covid-19 and its lockdowns on the global economy are of a scale not seen since the Second World War, and yet the World Economic Forum has identified the current situation as one of potentially great opportunity, where economic policy can be redesigned to [reduce poverty and increase social mobility](#). It is indeed typically the poorest and most disadvantaged who have been hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic, which has highlighted the disparities, inequalities and divisions across societies. From a mathematical modelling study, published in Proceedings of the Royal Society, it was concluded that lockdowns alone are not enough to control the pandemic, but if combined with the [majority of the population wearing facemasks](#), vastly less transmission of the contagion could be expected, with a flattening of second and tertiary waves, and the disease being brought under control. Should no mitigations be put in place, it has been estimated that from a second wave “a [“reasonable” worst-case scenario would see between 24,500 and 251,000 deaths related to coronavirus in hospitals alone.](#)” The peak would be in January/February 2021.

In the UK, as of [July 24th, it will be compulsory to wear facemasks](#) in shops and supermarkets, with a non-compliance penalty of up to £100, even though there are warnings that the facemask law [might prove unenforceable](#). The effectiveness of facemasks is also supported by a German study, which indicated a [40% drop in infection rate](#) when they were worn on public transport and in shops, while the risk of transmission is [lower in outdoor environments](#). However, the largest study to date, in the UK, has also emphasized the importance of [maintaining social distancing](#). Methods to expand tests onto the scale of [millions a week](#) are also being urgently sought, as is thought will be of considerable assistance in controlling the virus; it is also believed that [contact tracing](#) will prove a highly effective strategy.

Naturally, the question arises, of whether the [SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus](#) will eventually go away, or if we must learn to live alongside it, as we have with other viruses, although that

of our present woes seems far [more virulent than colds and flu](#). It is an alarming prospect that the immunity from protective antibodies toward the coronavirus may last for only months, and it may prove that [“Vaccines in development will either need to generate stronger and longer lasting protection compared to natural infection, or they may need to be given regularly.”](#) The idea is also challenged, that because someone has already had Covid-19, they are subsequently immune to it, despite initially becoming antibody positive. David Nabarro, the World Health Organisation’s special envoy for Covid-19, has [warned](#) that since it is unknown how long it might take to develop a treatment or a vaccine, “We have all got to learn to live with this virus, to do our business with this virus in our presence, to have social relations with this virus in our presence and not to be continuously having to be in lockdown because of the widespread infections that can occur.”

This is an extremely sobering prospect, to say the least of it, and it may well be that the practices of [social distancing, handwashing, wearing facemasks](#), will be with us for as long as the coronavirus is, and it is not that the world is currently experiencing a second wave, but [never recovered from the first](#). Meanwhile, with the lifting of the lockdowns, we enter the “post-Covid” period, but where economies struggle to fully recover, unemployment rises, and barely accustomed behavioral changes need to be maintained; hence, this time may be more of a recalibration, rather than setting a new chapter. Not surprisingly, there are [psychological implications](#) attendant to living with Covid-19, which also must be considered.

The need to adapt to a virus that may be with us for some while yet, might serve as a broader prompt to forge social equity, [community resilience](#), and a necessary redirection of resources. It is greatly heartening that the US Senator, [Bernie Sanders](#), has [exhorted](#) that “this unprecedented moment in American history – a terrible pandemic, an economic meltdown, people marching across the country to end systemic racism and police brutality, growing income and wealth inequality and an unstable president in the White House – now is the time to bring people together to fundamentally alter our national priorities and rethink the very structure of American society.”

As part of this effort, he has proposed that the US [military budget be cut by 10%](#), and the money instead used to address inequalities on home territory; Sanders has also acted to stop funding being available for a [war against Iran](#).

Perhaps this might be the dawn of a new kind of “attack”, one that heals societies from within, and dissipates the anger and fear that drive conflicts of all kinds, and on all scales? In this spirit, The World Economic Forum’s proposition that economic reform be introduced in the service of social equity is similarly to be applauded. Living in an industrially advanced, Western European country, infectious diseases had appeared to be long since vanquished foes, from my childhood memories, and in family histories, but I am rudely reminded that all kinds of complacency are both inappropriate and misguided.

In the strange manifestations of this odd and awkward year – undoubtedly one that has provoked great existential contemplation for all of us – life appears all the more precious, fleeting and impermanent, and maybe a time to be inspired, to imagine what might be achieved by the human family uniting in shared purpose, action and identity.

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



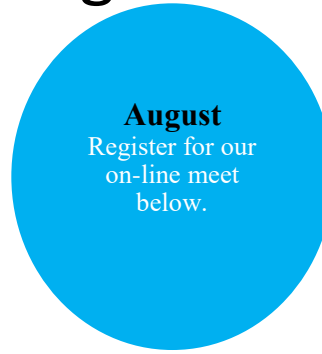
Atheist
COMMUNITY
of Polk County

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. See, <https://polkatheists.org/>

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.

Being a nonbeliever in what seems to be a heavily religious area can often be isolating. YES – we're building a new community of atheists, humanists, freethinkers and skeptics to socialize and discuss issues we find important in a safe, friendly environment. But we also want to create a landing pad for those who may be doubting their faith or leaving their religion. Often, when people leave belief behind, they're losing more than a God belief. Sometimes family severs contact, the church friends you've been close to for years may start to distance themselves. When your religious connections are a large part of your world, it's easy to find yourself lost and alone when you walk away. If this is you, please know that YOU ARE NOT ALONE. There is a community here that cares for and values you – no commandments required.

August Events [Details—click here](#)



meetup

Be sure to check for changes and RSVP!

Look for our new Podcast - coming

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

Be sure to come by AoF's regular **Sunday night Zoom sessions starting at 5:00 PM.** See our listings on the TB-CoR meetup for many more Zoom-meets.

For linking information, see our notices on the Coalition of Reason Meetup page, or go to our website;

www.aof.ngo.

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 of stored information.

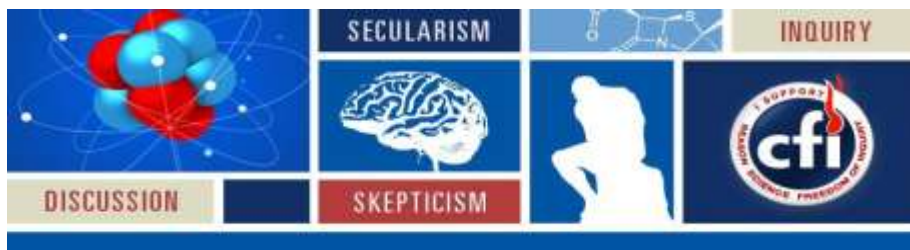
The radio/TV broadcasts are on extended hiatus for now. However, previous programs, most with discussions of timeless interest, are available **on the internet at:**

www.youtube.com/atheistforum .

Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel

Now, tune in to **the Voice of Reason** See [page 13!](#)
Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org





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



NEW Resource: Dubious Covid-19 Treatments & Preventives

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission have stated: "There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)."

Advertising that a product can prevent, treat, or cure COVID-19 without rigorous scientific evidence sufficient to substantiate the claims violates the federal FTC Act. Nevertheless, various products and services have been touted as being effective in treating or preventing COVID-19. Most lack a plausible rationale for any potential benefit against COVID-19 or are nonsensical. Some hyped treatments and preventives are known to present hazards. For others, evidence of safety is lacking. Consumers of dubious COVID-19 treatments and preventives waste their money and time.

Hyped treatments and preventives for COVID-19 include: <https://bit.ly/3hkCBW0>

Flatten The Curve Of The Infodemic With New Live Online Talks From *Skeptical Inquirer*

By Paul Fidalgo

Introducing a new series of live online talks from some of the brightest minds in science and skepticism. Now more than ever, people need to hear from the voices of reason, science, and skepticism, but too often they are drowned out by the noise of misinformation, pseudoscience, and conspiracy theories, especially online. That's why, starting ... <https://bit.ly/2WD1fJC>

Why You Should Trust The Coronavirus Vaccine

By [Steven Salzberg](#), Forbes

Let me start by making one thing clear: at the time of this writing, we don't have a scientifically validated vaccine for Covid-19. But more than 150 vaccines are being developed around the world, and many of them are already in advanced stages of testing.

So we'll have a vaccine soon, likely in a matter of months. And everyone should take it. I know I will.

Many if not all of the vaccines being developed in Europe and the U.S. are going through the same kind of scrutiny, and we'll be able to see the results of those tests too. This is how we generate trust in the results: share them openly. I'm very re-assured by what I've seen so far.

....

The bottom line: vaccines work, and our methods for testing them are rigorous and thorough. With a little luck, the world will have multiple Covid-19 vaccines by the end of 2020. Once we have enough people vaccinated, our long nightmare with the coronavirus pandemic will come to an end.

Read the whole article here: <https://bit.ly/3jssD6L>

Subscribe to "The Humanist Magazine You Can Trust". Enjoy print or online access to the latest Free Inquiry articles on your computer, phone, or tablet! <https://bit.ly/30vOCRp>

Subscribe to *Skeptical Inquirer* at Just \$2.80 an Issue! SI promotes scientific inquiry, critical thinking, science education, and the use of reason in examining controversial and extraordinary claims through rigorous reporting and investigation. <https://bit.ly/32G8q7C>





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**.

Tampa Bay Post Carbon Council

This organizations is open to all concerned citizens who care about making our world a fitting home for humanity, while preserving our democratic traditions. Join us [Here!](#)

We urge you to join with us as we focus citizen decision makers on retaining democracy and prosperity amidst the transition to a new way of life. The end of the carbon (oil/coal) economy is a development that will impact every aspect of social life, and thus shape our future. It is the leadership of this generation who will determine what kind of a future that will be.

If you are an expert or scientist, please see [this page](#).

Outreach: From the begining our major aspiration was to reach as many citizens as we could with the important message of the changing state of our world, and the importance of moving in a direction that will ameliorate the suffering of our fellow human beings as conditions deteriorate.

There is no escape from the arc of that change. The force of nature is much more powerful than anything we can do. Our species signal effect has been only to accelerate over time, civilization's course away from the optimal conditions that support human life.

However, we might begin to make the possibility of human survival over the longer term possible; we surely ought to start on it now.

What is needed is knowledge and action. We will do our best to expand opportunities to obtain such knowledge; it is up to all of us to act.

Upcoming events: RSVP for admission links!

Thursday, August 13: Online: Developing a SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine: Is Warp Speed Too Fast? <https://bit.ly/3jkPIIN>

Tuesday, August 18: Online: Tampa Bay Technology Center (TBTC) Monthly Meeting <https://bit.ly/3jpgiAo>

Saturday, August 22: Online: Center for Inquiry's SHARE Book Club <https://bit.ly/32EheLd>

See some of our recommended online programs on page [12](#)

This timely documentary explores how and why misinformation spreads, and how to be a smarter information consumer in our increasingly digital world.

<https://to.pbs.org/3hi3zgX>

This also might help <http://bit.ly/2ozw6cm>

"If there are any lessons to be learned from history, it is that we should be skeptical of all points of view, including those of the skeptics. No one is infallible, and no one can claim a monopoly on truth or virtue. It would be contradictory for skepticism to seek to translate itself into a new faith. One must view with caution the promises of any new secular priest who might emerge promising a brave new world—if only his path to clarity and truth is followed. Perhaps the best we can hope for is to temper the intemperate and to tame the perverse temptation that lurks within." — Paul Kurtz

Snippets

Eye-opening numbers from Pew: A bare majority of Earthlings (51 percent) say that **belief in God is not required to be a moral person**. 54 percent of Americans say the same. The report has lots of interesting breakdowns by things like age, income, and education.

This will drive Christian nationalists nuts: Muslims bringing a **challenge to terrorism watch lists based on RFRA**.

Churches and faith-based organizations got between \$80 million and \$194 million from PPP loans...**in Southwestern Pennsylvania alone**. South Carolina is going to give \$32 million from its \$48 million COVID-19 relief funds to families for private school "grants." **Yes, that means religious schools**.

Marco Rubio on UFOs: "Frankly, if it's something outside this planet that might actually be better than the fact that we've seen some sort of technological leap from the Chinese or Russians or some other adversary that allows them to conduct this sort of activity." You sure about that?

Dana Milbank at the *Post* decries "**The Great American Crackup**," and consults conspiracy theory expert Joseph Uscinski, who is our first speaker for **Skeptical Inquirer Presents next week!**

Anna Merlan at *Vice*: "Conspiracy communities that have previously only brushed past each other like schools of fish borne along on different currents are suddenly, abruptly, **swimming in the same direction**." She calls it the conspiracy singularity.

The Morning Heresy is your daily digest of news and links relevant to the secular and skeptic communities. <http://bit.ly/2Ly9Zfu>

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission have stated: "*There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).*" New Coronavirus fact check site to clear the air over quackery: <https://bit.ly/3hkCBW0>



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!](#)



Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics supplemented for 21st century care robots

By research philosopher Professor Tom Sorell, University of Warwick, <https://bit.ly/3gxTzA1>

[Isaac Asimov](#) famously devised [three laws of robotics](#) that underpinned a number of his science fiction books and short stories, [Professor Tom Sorell](#) of the University of Warwick has helped develop a new set of rules that they believe will be needed for 21st century care robots.

Following recent developments in robotics research philosopher Professor Tom Sorell of the University of Warwick has helped produced six values to be used in properly-designed care-robots.

First fully stated in 1942 in the story Runaround, Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics sought to provide a framework for the relationship between humankind and robots, then mainly creatures of science fiction. Now that robots are widely used in caring for older people, as well as in military and industrial applications, rules for making and interacting with them are a practical and ethical necessity.

The six values are designed address the circumstances of older people in need of support and are to be embodied in the programming and hardware of the care-robot.

Professor Sorell argues that the six values can be promoted by a care-robot "depending on whether the purpose of the robot is to prolong normal adult autonomy and independence as far as possible into old age, or whether the purpose is to take the load off the support network for an older person".

The Six Values proposed are:

1. *Autonomy – being able to set goals in life and choose means;*
2. *Independence – being able to implement one's goals without the permission, assistance or material resources of others;*
3. *Enablement – having, or having access to, the means of realizing goals and choices;*
4. *Safety – being able readily to avoid pain or harm;*
5. *Privacy – being able to pursue and realize one's goals and implement one's choices unobserved*
6. *Social Connectedness – having regular contact with friends and loved ones and safe access to strangers one can choose to meet.*

Discussing the values, which were developed by Professor Tom Sorell from the University of Warwick, in collaboration with Professor Heather Draper of the University of Birmingham, for a European Commission funded project called ACCOMPANY, Professor Sorell from the University of Warwick said there were "moral reasons why autonomy should be promoted before the alleviation of burdens on carers".

"Older people deserve to have the same choices as other adults, on pain otherwise of having an arbitrarily worse moral status. And where the six values conflict, there is reason for autonomy to be treated as overriding", argues Professor Sorell.

On the question of whether the care-robot is answerable to the older person or carers who might worry about the older person and seek to restrict their activities, Professor Sorell says that the ability of the older person "to lead their life in their own way should prevail" with this being reflected in how the six values are applied.

Professor Sorell recognises that there may be exceptions to the primacy of Autonomy:

"Exceptions might be where older people lack 'capacity' in the legal sense (in which case they would not be autonomous), where they are highly dependent, or where leading life in one's own way is highly likely to lead to the need for rescue".

Care-robots that are designed to promote the six values and assist older people to pursue their own interests are, Professor Sorell argues, "better than robots designed merely to monitor the vital signs and warn of risks and dangers".

"Robots designed to let the user control information about their own routines and activities (including mishaps) are also to be preferred to those engaged in data-sharing with worried relations or health care workers".

The researchers will continue to work on and refine the six values as engineers develop such devices and even Asimov himself continued to refine his own laws in particular adding a 4th or 0th law in later stories.

[*Might this be too complicated for human minds? After all, complex programming has proven to be so. Ed.*]

Recommended Reading

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



This is a book about a radical idea.

An idea that's long been known to make rulers nervous. An idea denied by religions and ideologies, ignored by the news media and erased from the annals of world history.

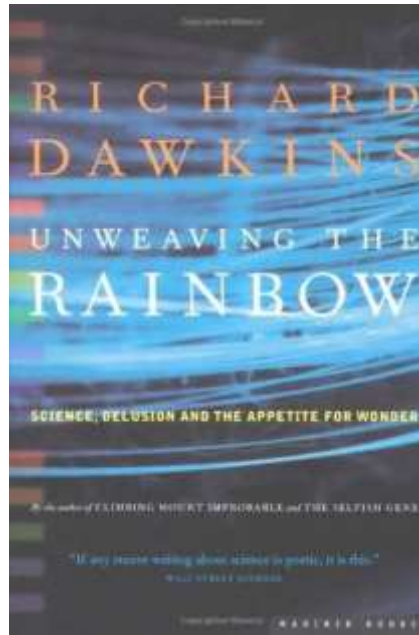
At the same time, it's an idea that's legitimized by virtually every branch of science. One that's corroborated by evolution and confirmed by everyday life. An idea so intrinsic to human nature that it goes unnoticed and gets overlooked.

If only we had the courage to take it more seriously, it's an idea that might just start a revolution. Turn society on its head. Because once you grasp what it really means, it's nothing less than a mind-bending drug that ensures you'll never look at the world the same again. So what is this radical idea?

That most people, deep down, are pretty decent.

Did Newton "unweave the rainbow" by reducing it to its prismatic colors, as Keats contended? Did he, in other words, diminish beauty? Far from it, says acclaimed scientist Richard Dawkins; Newton's unweaving is the key to much of modern astronomy and to the breathtaking poetry of modern cosmology. Mysteries don't lose their poetry because they are solved: the solution often is more beautiful than the puzzle, uncovering deeper mysteries. With the wit, insight, and spellbinding prose that have made him a best-selling author, Dawkins takes up the most important and compelling topics in modern science, from astronomy and genetics to language and virtual reality, combining them in a landmark statement of the human appetite for wonder.

This is the book Richard Dawkins was meant to write: a brilliant assessment of what science is (and isn't), a tribute to science not because it is useful but because it is uplifting.



See more books (if any) on the back page.



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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 Wallgasper
12. Sex, Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14. What Liberal Media Eric Alderman
15. The End of Faith Sam Harris
16. Plan B Lester Brown
17. The Portable Atheist Christopher Hitchens
18. Open Society George Soros
19. Non Believer Nation David Niose
20. God on Trial Peter Irons
21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond- Robinson
22. The Missionary Position Christopher Hitchens
23. Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff
24. A brief History of Time Stephen Hawking
25. Breaking the Spell Daniel Dennett
26. The Philosophy of Humanism Corliss Lamont
27. The Quotable Atheist Jack Huberman
28. 50 Reasons People Believe In G.G. 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 Eagers
74. Reporting at Wit's End St. Clair McKelway
75. Corporations are not People Clements
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president? Cragun - Phillips
77. Culture of Honor Nisbett - Cohen
78. Rot on the Vine Stenes
79. Thoughts of a Freethinker New Kaye * Essential works
80. An Atheist Stranger by Herb Silverman
81. Candidate without a prayer- Herb Silverman

<u>Freethought News Item</u>	Link to article	Date published	Organization
Thousands of female genital mutilation cases identified in England in past year – Yahoo	https://www.theahafoundation.org/thousands-of-female-genital-mutilation-cases-identified-in-england-in-past-year-yahoo/	7/24/2020 17:08	American Humanist Association
House funding bill pushes back against Trump's religious agenda	https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37735-house-funding-bill-pushes-back-against-trump-s-religious-agenda	7/24/2020 15:24	Freedom From Religion Foundation
Trump Administration Justifies Throwing Trans People Out of Shelters with Religion	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/hud-trans-people-shelters/	7/23/2020 21:24	American Atheists
FFRF legal eagles stay busy disentangling religion from government	https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37734-ffrf-legal-eagles-stay-busy-disentangling-religion-from-government	7/23/2020 19:30	Freedom From Religion Foundation
Despite What Trump Believes, Religion In America Will Survive The Pandemic	https://www.au.org/blogs/religion-will-be-gone	7/23/2020 12:50	Americans United for Separation of Church and State
House repeals Trump travel ban, as FFRF has been urging	https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37729-house-repeals-trump-travel-ban-as-ffrf-has-been-urging	7/22/2020 21:19	Freedom From Religion Foundation
FFRF condemns South Carolina's outrageous giveaway to religious schools	https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37726-ffrf-condemns-south-carolina-s-outrageous-giveaway-to-religious-schools	7/22/2020 20:16	Freedom From Religion Foundation
Bailout Loans for Religious Worship Must Be Paid Back, Not Forgiven	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/bailout-loans-for-religious-worship-must-be-paid-back-not-forgiven/	7/22/2020 18:30	American Atheists
City revokes tax exemption after FFRF protests	https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37724-city-revokes-tax-exemption-after-ffrf-protests	7/22/2020 15:31	Freedom From Religion Foundation
FFRF applauds Wisconsin county fine for Christian "mask free zone" coffeeshop	https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37723-ffrf-applauds-wisconsin-county-fine-for-christian-mask-free-zone-coffeeshop	7/22/2020 15:25	Freedom From Religion Foundation
Even During The Pandemic, Government Calls For Prayer Remain Inappropriate	https://www.au.org/blogs/coronavirus-prayer-resolutions	7/22/2020 13:57	Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Organizations Call Upon Congress to Protect Church/State Separation in COVID-19 Relief Bill	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/paycheck-protection-program-loan-forgiveness-churches/	7/21/2020 22:39	American Atheists
Religion: A reason the U.S. is COVID No. 1	https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37722-religion-a-reason-the-u-s-is-covid-no-1	7/21/2020 19:53	Freedom From Religion Foundation
Appeals Court Sides with Discriminatory Religious Adoption Agency	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/new-hope-family-services-discrimination-adoption/	7/21/2020 18:24	American Atheists
Funding to stop female genital mutilation reduced by 76 percent despite hundreds of new cases each month – The Independent	https://www.theahafoundation.org/funding-to-stop-female-genital-mutilation-reduced-by-76-per-cent-despite-hundreds-of-new-cases-each-month-the-independent/	7/21/2020 13:37	American Humanist Association
Tell Your Member Of Congress To Support The NO BAN Act	https://www.au.org/blogs/pass-the-no-ban-act	7/21/2020 13:25	Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Ayaan Hirsi Ali Media Appearances on Freedom of Speech	https://www.theahafoundation.org/ayaan-hirsi-ali-media-appearances-on-freedom-of-speech/	7/20/2020 19:46	American Humanist Association
Texas AG's exemption for religious schools endangers students and staff	https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37706-texas-ag-s-exemption-for-religious-schools-endangers-students-and-staff	7/20/2020 19:24	Freedom From Religion Foundation

<u>Item</u>	<u>Link to article</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Ayaan Hirsi Ali Goes on Fox News to Discuss Mike Pompeo's Newest Report on Human Rights	https://www.theahafoundation.org/ayaan-hirsi-ali-speaks-out-against-mike-pompeos-report-on-human-rights/	7/20/2020 14:29	American Humanist Association
Ayaan Hirsi Ali Goes on Fox News to Discuss Mike Pompeo's Newest Report on Human Rights	https://www.theahafoundation.org/ayaan-hirsi-ali-speaks-out-against-mike-pompeos-report-on-human-rights/	7/20/2020 14:29	American Humanist Association
You Can Help Keep Church And State Separate	https://www.au.org/blogs/Marketos-Take-Action-Protect	7/17/2020 15:21	Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Another NY Christian Nationalist Bill Bites the Dust	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/ny-student-religious-expression-bill/	7/16/2020 20:16	American Atheists
American Atheists Demands Full Transparency on Closed-Door Briefing on Church Bailouts	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/transparency-church-bailout-briefing/	7/16/2020 16:16	American Atheists
95 Years After The Scopes Trial, Christian Nationalists Still Oppose Teaching Evolution In Public Schools	https://www.au.org/blogs/95th-Anniversary-Scopes-Trial	7/16/2020 14:48	Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Religious Freedom And Racial Justice: A Critical Nexus	https://www.au.org/blogs/Nexus-Religious-Freedom-Racism	7/15/2020 13:22	Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Christian Nationalist Bible Class Bill Fails to Gain Foothold in New York	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/new-york-bible-classes-public-schools/	7/14/2020 21:20	American Atheists
Religious Freedom Dilemma: Politics Are A Threat to Reproductive Justice	https://www.au.org/blogs/Reproductive-Justice-Marginalized-Communities	7/14/2020 15:24	Americans United for Separation of Church & State
Trump And DeVos Exploit Pandemic To Push Reckless Private School Voucher Scheme	https://www.au.org/blogs/devos-pandemic-vouchers	7/10/2020 14:27	Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Oppose DeVos's plan to use the pandemic to enrich religious schools!	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/devos-school-vouchers-heroes-act/	7/9/2020 18:22	American Atheists
Federal Court Rejects Request To Open Jewish Sleepaway Camps In N.Y.	https://www.au.org/blogs/new-york-camps	7/9/2020 13:42	Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Supreme Court Allows Religious Organizations to Set Their Own Rules, causing 100,000 Americans to Lose Access to Contraceptives	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/little-sisters-of-the-poor-v-pennsylvania/	7/8/2020 17:05	American Atheists
Supreme Court Permits Religious Schools to Discriminate After Forcing Taxpayers to Fund Them	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/our-lady-of-guadalupe-school/	7/8/2020 15:33	American Atheists
Trump Administration's Church Bailouts Cost Taxpayers \$6-10 Billion, American Atheists Reveals	https://www.atheists.org/2020/07/church-bailouts-cost-taxpayers-6-to-10-billion-dollars/	7/6/2020 20:09	American Atheists

Thu Jul 30	7:00pm - 8:00pm	Online: "Skeptical Inquirer" Presents: Conspiracy Theories and COVID-19	Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason
Thu Jul 30	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Skeptics on the Internet	Brevard Area Atheists Meetup
Sat Aug 1	10:00am - 4:00pm	Monthly Reminder: Atheist & Humanist Blood Drives	Florida Atheists, Critical Thinkers & Skeptics.
Sun Aug 2	10:15am - 11:30am	En proceso (Reunión de Zoom)	Florida Atheists, Critical Thinkers & Skeptics.
Sun Aug 2	5:00pm - 6:30pm	Seráh Blain from FBB on Humanist Ethics	Atheists of Florida Inc.
Thu Aug 6	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Skeptics on the Internet	Brevard Area Atheists Meetup

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 August 10th online at 7 PM
Topic: TBD



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

The Socrates Cafe

A monthly discussion since 2008.

Hosted by **Brent Hardaway**

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/38mye1h>

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 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



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
Sarasota, Florida

Next Lecture: Monday, **Speaker:** TBD

Topic: For now, it's all Zoom meets

For more details, information, news and activities, see: <https://www.husbay.org/programs.html#S5W> For more general info: <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

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

Listen to:

***The Voice
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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: 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 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: <https://orgsync.com/87429/chapter>

Please Don't Delay – 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 current **Flu & Pneumonia shots** when they are available.



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 – August, 2020 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



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

Read more on the web at: www.tampabaycor.net



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

Humanism and the Black Lives Matter Movement



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

Religious conservatives and reactionary thinkers approach the problem of police misconduct differently than do progressive humanists (and religionists.) The former believe that the problem is rooted in “sin,” or a transgression against the law of God. Moreover, they believe in maintaining law and order by any means necessary. They quote the Bible, maintaining that the powers that be are ordained of God and that we must render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s. When asking themselves “What Would Jesus Do?”, they do not answer “join a protest for social and racial justice.” They pray about their concerns, hoping to get some kind of sign from God as to how to go about confronting the problem.

Humanists, on the other hand do not believe in sin. We acknowledge power relations and understand that many people will abuse their power for various reasons. We believe that human-centered action must be coupled with human-centered thought in confronting the problem. Rather than law and order, we are concerned with challenging the powers that be.

This was the difference between conservatives and reactionary thinkers and progressives during the civil rights movement. The latter were, for all intents and purposes, opposed to the civil rights movement. They considered even the most nonviolent protesters to be trouble makers. They prayed about the “Negro problem,” but had no realistic solutions to racial injustice.

Today we are once again faced with protests against police misconduct all over the world. Progressive humanists are involved with or sympathetic to the Black Lives Matter movement. Conversely, conservative and reactionary thinkers are coming down on the side of maintaining law and order.

Progressives are looking for proposed solutions. Here are two:

1. Add more women to police forces. Research shows that women police officers are far less likely to get violent than their male counterparts. Indeed, it is extremely rare to hear about a policewoman involved in an act of brutality or death. They behave more respectfully and rationally toward suspects, and are better able to handle dangerous, chaotic situations. If now is not the time to hire more women cops, then when?
2. Pass laws against the use of chokeholds by cops. The New York State Assembly has just passed the Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act, named in honor of the Black man who was killed by a New York Police Department officer using a chokehold. It is a felony to break the law, and anyone found guilty of violating it could receive up to 15 years in prison.

It would also help if young children could learn how difficult and dangerous police work is. I was a part-time security

policeman in the air force, and I was amazed at how much is expected of cops. How many of us have jobs where people are trying to humiliate, hurt or kill us? How many of us worry about whether we will make it home alive after work? We need to have empathy for cops who are only trying to do their jobs.

On the other hand, the blue wall of silence is a stain upon the police. Cops often blindly defend rogue cops. Perhaps the most recent example occurred in Buffalo, New York where a 75-year-old man protesting police misconduct was shoved to the ground by cops and seriously injured. Rather than show empathy for the elderly man, all 57 members of the Emergency Response Team (the riot police) resigned from that group in support of the two cops charged with pushing the man to the ground. When the two cops were arraigned, hundreds of cops filled the street outside the courthouse, in support of the two cops. (President Trump even tweeted a conspiracy theory in support of the two cops.) If cops have no empathy for the victims of police brutality, they are greatly decreasing the likelihood that progressives will empathize with them.

Many progressives maintain that police misconduct is rooted in capitalism. However, police misconduct in the former Soviet Bloc was widespread. Moreover, in Cuba, Black rappers have long complained about police brutality in their music. Regardless of one’s preferred economic system, what the world needs is better policing, and that could come about under capitalism.

As humanists, we want social and racial justice, but we also believe in mercy. Someone once said that those who shout the loudest for justice would soon beg for mercy if justice was rendered unto them. We must never abandon the presumption of innocence for political expediency or anything else. On the other hand, justice cannot simply be a matter of who has the best lawyers. As the 19th Century freethinker Robert Green Ingersoll noted, we must be guided by a “caring rationalism” and try to be as fair as possible.

Some Whites complain about the name “Black Lives Matter.” However, the point of the name is to demonstrate that White lives matter more to the powers that be. For example, whenever young White girls are reported missing, they are the recipients of non-stop media coverage and police attention. However, young Black girls are reported missing all of the time, but the media and cops hardly notice. That is one reason why it is necessary to show that Black Lives Matter (as much as White lives.)

Progressive humanism and the Black Lives Matter movement make for a good match. Rather than blindly defend the powers that be, we must continue to hold their feet to the fire and demand what we deserve.

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