

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News



Vol. 9 No. 10, October 2020

Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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Come Zoom with us

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!

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.

Please Don't Delay – Get Your Shingle and Flu 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** available now.

Did you know that if you're registered to vote but didn't vote in the past two national elections you may have been removed from the voting rolls? In Florida, if you don't vote in one national election and don't return voter address confirmation mailers, you can be marked as an "inactive voter," and—depending on your county—after two elections without voting you may be marked as an "ineligible voter," and removed.

Thankfully there's a simple fix: Go to registertovoteflorida.gov and check your voter registration status. If you don't show up in the system as a registered voter, you can register online immediately. And be sure to check your signature and name. **But you must do it before October 5 -- the deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the 2020 election.**

Three other important reasons to go to registertovoteflorida.gov before October 5:

- If you haven't registered to vote before and want to vote for the first time.
- If you've moved or changed your name since you last voted.
- If you just want to make sure—sometimes voters have been flagged for removal because of a computer error.

Don't lose your right to vote in the 2020 election! Your vote is your voice.

Go to registertovoteflorida.gov to register or to update your registration today.

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 we're going for "Normal."

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason
Web site—Jim Peterson
Editors—**Jim Peterson & Rick O'Keefe**
Back & current issues online at:
<http://www.tampabaycor.net>
Special Projects—Mark Brandt & Bill Norsworthy
See our event websites at:
<http://bit.ly/2vUJoE1>
Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the editors, TBCoR, or its member organizations.

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



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

Vol. XXXIII No. 10 October, 2020



The Suncoast Humanist Society &
The Civilian Conservation Corps Initiative presents,
An

An Electoral Forum

What are the principal issues for Pinellas
County & the Bay area?

You'll want to **Zoom in and ask questions** for this
one. Join us **Saturday, Oct 10th at 2 PM.**

Mitch Perry, Political reporter for Spectrum 9 news will provide his consid-
-erable knowledge and insight gathered over years of reporting on this area.

As a 501c3 organization, the Humanist Society cannot recommend or endorse any political candidate or party. However this does not prevent us from discussing ideas, issues and problems within the philosophical sphere of politics. It has been rightly said that politics is the answer to the question, "How shall we live?" Nothing has so enhanced or degraded the world than bad and good ideas. Now its your turn to be informed, decide, and then act.

Mitch has been involved in news and politics media professionally for over 25 years. A San Francisco native, he began his journalism career at KPFA Radio in Berkeley in the 1990s.

He moved to Florida to become the assistant news director at WMNF radio in Tampa in 2000, where he served as creator/anchor/producer of the hour-long WMNF Evening News. He later worked for five years as political editor of Creative Loafing. He also had stints reporting on politics and government at Florida Politics and most recently, the Florida Phoenix in Tallahassee. Mitch joined the Spectrum Bay News 9 team in November 2019.

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

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

Our Local Board Meeting

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



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

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

Annual Dues

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



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

*If you have questions concerning your
dues or status, contact our treasurer,
Scott Wilson scott33761@yahoo.com*

*If new, please give info below; if renewing
just indicate your name & any changes
from our previous information Thanks!*

Name: Address -if new : City, State, Zip
Phone, E-mail: (Privacy respected)

Send check made out to:
"Scott Wilson"

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

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



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The Thoughtful Consumers Guide

(A little Philosophical Humor)
For the Discriminating devotee

Solipsism Warning:

The consumer should be aware that he or she may be the only entity in the universe, and therefore that any perceived defects in product quality are the consumer's own fault.

Determinism Safety Advisory:

Every citizen be advised that despite the possibility that his or her acts are all entirely predetermined by the blind mechanical nature of the universe and are therefore unavoidable and inescapable, he or she will still incur a legal responsibility and liability for any torts, violations, misdemeanors, or felonies he or she commits.

Knowledge-Definition Warning:

Because knowledge is defined for the purpose of this product literature as "justified true belief", the manufacturer cannot prove that they "know" any of the information provided with this product to be true, correct, complete, or consistent because they cannot demonstrate their internal belief states through the principle of Philosophic Privacy.

Cartesian Evil Genius Alert:

The reader is advised that he or she may be subject to an illusion generated by an evil genius, and that his or her "sensory fibers" may be falsely manipulated at any time with neither advance warning nor any possible legal remedy.

Epistemological Denotation Warning:

The consumer must understand that due to the a-priori impossibility of assuring a shared denotation amongst independent agents, none of the advertising material, product literature, instructions, or safety warnings (including this one), associated with this product may contain what the consumer perceives to be factual information.

Non-Universal Ethics Notice:

Due to the possibility that a common notion of ethics are not universally shared by all sentient beings, and that therefore the manufacturer may have entirely different concept of "fairness", "equity", "honesty", and "integrity" than the consumer, the consumer should not expect the product purchased to conform in any way to the advertised properties of the product.

Philosopher-General's Existentialist Tobacco Products Label:

Warning! this product has been found to cause cancer and emphysema, and to lead to increased likelihood of strokes and heart disease. However, as the Universe is a soulless waste inhabited by unthinking machines it doesn't matter in the least whether you smoke or not. Go ahead, light up, it's all the same to me if you live or die.

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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Kyle Hicks,
Lois Fries, Secretary
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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/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
321-604-7637





Humanist Quotes

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

If those committed to the quest fail, they will be forgiven. When lost, they will find another way. The moral imperative of humanism is the endeavor alone, whether successful or not, provided the effort is honorable and failure memorable.
-- **E. O. Wilson**

"A person who has not been completely alienated, who has remained sensitive and able to feel, who has not lost the sense of dignity, who is not yet "for sale", who can still suffer over the suffering of others, who has not acquired fully the having mode of existence - briefly, a person who has remained a person and not become a thing - cannot help feeling lonely, powerless, isolated in present-day society. He cannot help doubting himself and his own convictions, if not his sanity. He cannot help suffering, even though he can experience moments of joy and clarity that are absent in the life of his "normal" contemporaries. Not rarely will he suffer from neurosis that results from the situation of a sane man living in an insane society, rather than that of the more conventional neurosis of a sick man trying to adapt himself to a sick society. In the process of going further in his analysis, i.e. of growing to greater independence and productivity, his neurotic symptoms will cure themselves."

— **Erich Fromm**, [The Art of Being](#)

"There is no justice in the laws of nature, no term for fairness in the equations of motion. The Universe is neither evil, nor good, it simply does not care. The stars don't care, or the Sun, or the sky.

But they don't have to! WE care! There IS light in the world, and it is US!"

— **Eliezer Yudkowsky**

"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**



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



Sierra Club leader and respected Tampa Bay environmental advocate **Kent Bailey** passed away at home on Sept 22 after suffering a heart attack.

He was a tireless worker and had a huge heart. Kent always placed the needs of others ahead of his own. He was an insatiable learner with a massive catalog of information. Kent's brilliant mind and his drive and desire to protect the fragile, sensitive, planet of our birth was his legacy to us.

[Click here](#)



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

Dirt

Soil is the earth's fragile skin that anchors all life on Earth. It is comprised of countless species that create a dynamic and complex ecosystem and is among the most precious resources to humans. Increased demand for agriculture commodities generates incentives to convert forests and grasslands to farm fields and pastures. The transition to agriculture from natural vegetation often cannot hold onto the soil and many of these plants, such as coffee, cotton, palm oil, soybean and wheat, can actually increase soil erosion beyond the soil's ability to maintain itself.

Half of the topsoil on the planet has been lost in the last 150 years. In addition to erosion, soil quality is affected by other aspects of agriculture. These impacts include compaction, loss of soil structure, nutrient degradation, and soil salinity. These are very real and at times severe issues.

The effects of soil erosion go beyond the loss of fertile land. It has led to increased pollution and sedimentation in streams and rivers, clogging these waterways and causing declines in fish and other species. And degraded lands are also often less able to hold onto water, which can worsen flooding. Sustainable land use can help to reduce the impacts of agriculture and livestock, preventing soil degradation and erosion and the loss of valuable land to desertification.

The health of soil is a primary concern to farmers and the global community whose livelihoods depend on well managed agriculture that starts with the dirt beneath our feet. While there are many challenges to maintaining healthy soil, there are also solutions and a dedicated group of people, who work to innovate and maintain the fragile skin from which biodiversity springs.

DEFORESTATION

Without plant cover, erosion can occur and sweep the land into rivers. The agricultural plants that often replace the trees cannot hold onto the soil and many of these plants, such as coffee, cotton, palm oil, soybean and wheat, can actually worsen soil erosion. And as land loses its fertile soil, agricultural producers move on, clear more forest and continue the cycle of soil loss.

OVERGRAZING

The conversion of natural ecosystems to pasture land doesn't damage the land initially as much as crop production, but this change in usage can lead to high rates of erosion and loss of topsoil and nutrients. Overgrazing can reduce ground cover, enabling erosion and compaction of the land by wind and rain.. This reduces the ability for plants to grow and water to penetrate, which harms soil microbes and results in serious erosion of the land.

USE OF AGROCHEMICALS

Pesticides and other chemicals used on crop plants have helped farmers to increase yields. Scientists have found that overuse of some of these chemicals changes soil composition and disrupts the balance of microorganisms in the soil. This stimulates the growth of harmful bacteria at the expense of beneficial kinds.

Arable land is any land that can be used to grow crops. Many of the practices used in growing those crops can lead to the loss of topsoil and destruction of soil characteristics that make agriculture possible.

Erosion

Land is often transformed from a forest or other natural landscape, such as floodplains and wetlands, into a crop field or pasture. The converted land is less able to soak up water, making flooding more common. There are methods to improve soil water holding capacity as well as restoration and maintenance of wetlands.

Soil eroded from the land, along with pesticides and fertilizers applied to fields, washes into streams and waterways. This sedimentation and pollution can damage freshwater and marine habitats and the local communities that depend on them.

Poetry Reading with Pulitzer Prize Winner, *Jericho Brown*

Join us for a webinar on Oct 07, 2020 at 7:00 PM .

[Click here to Register now !](#)

This year's winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, Jericho Brown, will read from "The Tradition" and take questions from the audience.

"The Tradition" details the normalization of evil and its history at the intersection of the past and the personal. His poetic concerns are both broad and intimate, and at their very core a distillation of the incredibly human. Poems of fatherhood, legacy, blackness, queerness, worship, and trauma are propelled into stunning clarity by Brown's mastery.

Brown is also the author of "Please" and "The New Testament." He has won the Whiting Writer's Award, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



**VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE**
Saturday, October 17



Calling all LGBTQ humanists! Register today for the Centering the Margins 2020 summit.



The LGBTQ Humanist Alliance and the American Humanist Association invite you to Centering the Margins: a virtual half-day summit for and by LGBTQ humanists, atheists, and nonbelievers on Saturday, October 17. Our second annual summit focuses on celebrating creativity and a liberated future.

The half-day event will provide a necessary space for activists, students, organizers, and movement leaders from around the country, and will feature an inclusive and intersectional program that enables LGBTQ members of the nontheist and humanist community to come together, learn from each other, connect on issues, and collaborate on actions.

The conference will intentionally center the voices of LGBTQ people in our humanist movement.

Topics for discussions, presentations, and workshops include racial justice, survey data and state level advocacy on LGBTQ issues, building and maintaining secular LGBTQ communities, caucuses, and more.

Registration is now open. [Click here to register for free.](#)

Want to learn more about the LGBTQ Humanist Alliance? [Check out their website for details about their mission, the summit, and how to get involved.](#) We hope to see you there!

REGISTER FOR FREE NOW

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).

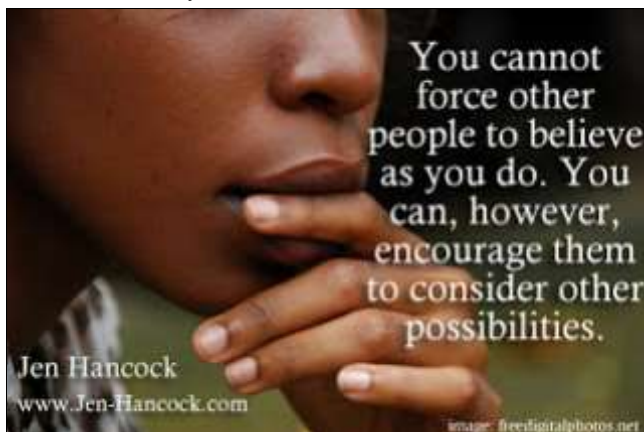
Ed Golly, Chair - Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir.
See AoF Meetup for details Website: <http://aof.ngo>

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



Strategies for Dealing with Racism in the Workplace

Today's blog post on humanistic leadership is actually just a link to an article I think you all should read.



It's titled: Confronting the Uncomfortable Reality of Workplace Discrimination by Derek R. Avery and Enrica N. Ruggs at MIT Sloan.

<https://sloanreview-mit-edu.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/sloanreview.mit.edu/article/confronting-the-uncomfortable-reality-of-workplace-discrimination/amp>

Jennifer Hancock

Do you know what your legislature Is up to?

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



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 evening 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.

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

www.youtube.com/atheistforum .



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

Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org





I am numb.

The loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is being deeply felt throughout the nation. As a secular leader, I can't help but think of the future of Church/State separation. Let this be a call to action for us all. Vote. We can't tell you who to vote for, but it's important now more than ever that our voices are heard. With concerns of postal service delays and high volumes of vote-by-mail ballots being cast during this pandemic, it's important that we all have a voting plan. If you need to know what those options are, or you need help getting to the polls, let us know.

The most recent organizational news in this issue is about the dust up in Lake Wales over my secular invocation. A lot has been written on the issue, so we won't get into the weeds here, but I've included the video of the invocation and a link to the Resolution the city passed. You can also get more of an overview discussion that I had with Joseph Richardson of the Central Florida Freethought Community on a recent *Freethought in Florida*.

We're also just about ready to launch a new program addressing hunger in Winter Haven, we're participating in a cleanup event this Saturday in Lake Wales, and we're doing a fundraiser that's loads of fun! Read on and get involved!
- Together -



Sarah Ray
Co-Founder/Director

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.

New on the Secular Invocations front

ACPC Director Sarah Ray gave a secular invocation at the Lake Wales City Commission Meeting on August 4th that set off a series of events that recently ended in the City Commission passing an invocation policy which reads as if it will prohibit the ACPC and its members from participating in future invocations and effectively limits invocation speakers to Christians.

The City Commission voted 4-1 on a Resolution to establish an official voluntary chaplain position with the City, appointed Rev. Dr. Moyer to that position, and in the event Moyer is unavailable, further declares that, "The prayer shall be voluntarily delivered by the City's Chaplain or by an eligible member of the clergy/religious leader in the local community of Lake Wales." They worked hard to prevent us from being involved in the future.

[Read the full Resolution here.](#)

Shortly after Lake Wales, ACPC Member Darlene Zeanwick presented a secular invocation at the Davenport City Commission meeting. In stark contrast, the City of Davenport passed a resolution following the 2019 ruling in *Williamson v. Brevard* where the City Attorney advised the Commission that if they were to continue invocations, they should have a formal policy that opens it up to everyone.

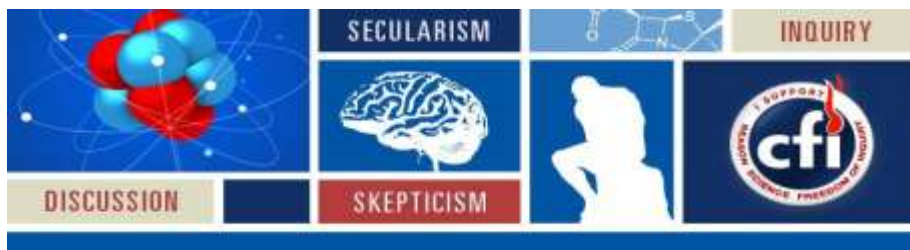
We are thankful to the City of Davenport for honoring religious equality in their invocation process.

The Board voted at our September meeting to resume certain community service activities with strict modifications for safety. And I get the pleasure of sharing a VERY exciting announcement about a new program that we'll be launching very soon!

Commissioner Curtis Gibson and **Keep Polk County Beautiful** are hosting a cleanup event in Lake Wales. While he voted in favor of the invocation policy that gives preference to Christians, we remain committed to our Mission & Vision of being a positive force throughout the county. Join us to help clean up an area of Lake Wales and continue to demonstrate positive community engagement, helping to change people's perceptions of nonbelievers.

ACPC will provide vests and pickers to our volunteers, and we have bags as well. Everyone is parking at Grace Healthcare, so you'll want to find the ACPC crew to get your supplies and ACPC safety vest! Text 863-666-0574 if you need help finding us day-of.

Thank you again for being a part of the Atheist Community of Polk County, helping us grow the organization and meet the needs of the secular community! Of course, if you ever have questions, suggestions or concerns, please reply and let us know!



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



Social Progress Index: Norway Up, US Down

As [The New York Times' Nicholas Kristof](#) writes, the latest Social Progress Index (put out yearly by the DC-based nonprofit the Social Progress Imperative) rates Norway as the global leader in its broad metrics of the quality of human life, while containing bad news for the US. "[D]espite its immense wealth, military power and cultural influence," Kristof writes, the US "ranks 28th—having slipped from 19th in 2011. The index now puts the United States behind significantly poorer countries, including Estonia, Czech Republic, Cyprus and Greece."

The calculation, which [includes data](#) from "globally or locally respected sources," as the group deems them—in categories like access to advanced education, personal freedom, water and sanitation, access to quality health care, and personal safety—is a blow to Americans' sense of exceptionalism, as Kristof puts it. "We Americans like to say 'We're No. 1.' But the new data suggest that we should be chanting, 'We're No. 28! And dropping!' Let's wake up, for we are no longer the country we think we are."

WHEN ENVIRONMENTALISM CLASHES WITH SCIENCE

By [Dibakar Das](#)

Protecting the environment is a worthy goal. The quality of our lives depends on the quality of the environment. We all need clean air, clean drinking water, and healthy food to have a healthy life. Poor air quality increases the risks of respiratory illnesses. Degrading soil health and warming global temperatures challenge continued food production. And deforestation, air and water pollution, and excess use of chemicals in food production only make things worse. The conservation of many endangered species of animals depends on protecting their environment. Protecting the environment is also important to contain man/wildlife conflicts, which often end badly. Wild animals driven by habitat destruction often attack human settlements in search of food, and in the worst scenario may help spread new diseases. The responsibility to protect the environment is therefore natural in most of us.

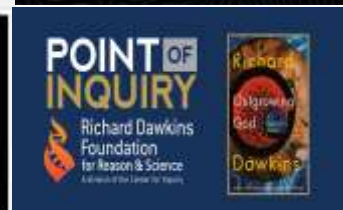
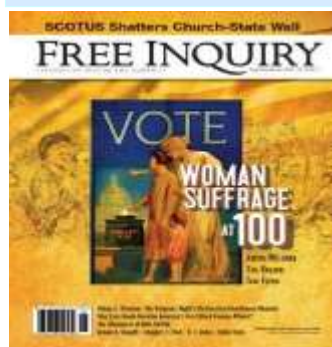
This tendency to care deeply for the environment, although useful in most instances, sometimes leads to irrational behaviors—ones based more on emotions than science. This issue merits some consideration in the interest of science and scientific thinking in general.

As people are becoming more environmentally aware, a form of environmentalism fashioned in exaggerated interpretation (and sometimes science denial) is growing among some youth. Secured in innocent emotions to protect and worship mother nature, this form of environmentalism looks similar to dogmatic religion in some aspects. It is often blind in opposition, based on emotions, and fierce in response to criticism. While I do not want to brand everybody who cares for the environment as a new religionist, the tendency of innocent youth to stand out as environmentalists at every occasion without being skeptical is dangerous and contrary to scientific thinking. This almost cult mentality may obstruct constructive and useful discussion—for example, whether we should go "all organic." The environmentalist I am talking about, of course, will say yes, even if a strong case could be made against the proposal.

[Read the rest here.](#)

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

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

Sorry, 'Theistic Science' Is Not Science

By **Brian Bolton**, *Skeptical Inquirer*, **Volume 42, No. 3**, May / June 2018 <https://bit.ly/3FBg>

A recently published book documents the creationist misrepresentation of science called "theistic science." *Who Was Adam? A Creation Model Approach to the Origin of Humanity* (2015) consists of a reprint of a book of the same title published more than ten years earlier, followed by a thorough update that constitutes one-third of the text.

The authors are Fazale Rana and Hugh Ross, both executives and scholars with Reasons to Believe (RTB), a Christian ministry located in Southern California. They have graduate degrees in science (chemistry and astronomy, respectively) and have written many books that profess to put biblical creationism on a scientific foundation.

Rana and Ross's work focuses on the "scientific case for God's existence and the Bible's reliability" and the "integration of scientific fact with biblical faith." Throughout *Who Was Adam?* they describe their creationist approach to human origins as science.

However, Rana and Ross also make clear their fundamental biblical premise: "We believe life's origin and history cannot be fully explained apart from the direct involvement of the Creator, who repeatedly intervened in Earth's history, initiating new life-forms, including humans who alone were made in His image."

This premise reflects Rana and Ross's explicit statement that creation by supernatural intervention is the foundational assumption of RTB's human origins model. The central presupposition of "theistic science" is operationalized in the repeated use of phrases such as "God's handiwork," "Creator's direct action," "work of the

Upcoming events: RSVP for admission links! Many regional freethought events are listed in detail and with registration instructions on our Meetup site. Go here: <http://bit.ly/2Ktcfke>

Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science

Calling all teachers of **English Language Learners!!** We are thrilled to offer the TIES student-guided units, along with the student response sheets, rubrics, and exams **in Spanish!!!** We have both middle and high school versions available. Check it out: <https://tieseducation.org/teacher-materials/#spanish>
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Creator," "God's creative work," and other causal behavior attributed to the biblical deity.

The RTB strategy does not satisfy the basic requirements of a scientific endeavor, and in this article I explain why, giving numerous examples taken primarily from the ten-year update of *Who Was Adam?*

Creation Model

The RTB human origins model is based on all Bible verses that describe God's work in creating humans and that recount early human history. Six well-known assertions illustrate the RTB creation model's testable propositions:

- God created Adam and Eve as the first humans (the primordial couple) through direct intervention.
- All humans came from Adam and Eve, who are the parents of humanity.
- Humans originated in a single geographical location, the Garden of Eden.
- A universal (but regional) flood shaped early human history.
- Life spans of the first humans were once longer than 900 years but shortened after the flood.

Humans are behaviorally distinct (in ways that reflect God's image) from the earlier hominids and the great apes.

The authors' stated objective is to demonstrate that a traditional biblical view of human origins has scientific credibility. They assert that the RTB model recasts the biblical scenario into scientific terms. It is purported to be like all scientific ideas or models, in that it is poised to stimulate future scientific work. With RTB's biblical model, Rana and Ross argue that the concept of creation is testable and has entered the scientific domain. Not surprisingly, they state that *Who Was Adam?* is primarily a scientific book.

Scientific Principles

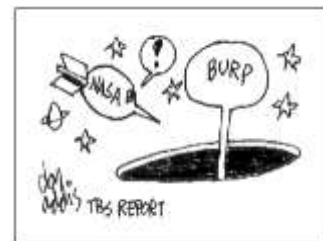
Before listing concrete examples of Rana and Ross's approach to defending the RTB biblical view ...

[Read the rest here.](#)

*"In the night of death, hope sees a star,
and listening love can hear the rustle
of a wing." - Robert Green Ingersoll*



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!](#)



Chiropractic: Not All That It's Cracked Up to Be

My new book has just been published. Allow me to try and whet your appetite by showing you the book's introduction:

"There is no alternative medicine. There is only scientifically proven, evidence-

based medicine supported by solid data or unproven medicine, for which scientific evidence is lacking." These words of Fontanarosa and Lundberg were published 22 years ago.^[1] Today, they are as relevant as ever, particularly to the type of healthcare I often call 'so-called alternative medicine' (SCAM)^[2], and they certainly are relevant to chiropractic.

Invented more than 120 years ago by the magnetic healer DD Palmer, chiropractic has had a colourful history. It has now grown into one of the most popular of all SCAMs. Its general acceptance might give the impression that chiropractic, *the art of adjusting by hand all subluxations of the three hundred articulations of the human skeletal frame*^[3], is solidly based on evidence. It is therefore easy to forget that a plethora of fundamental questions about chiropractic remain unanswered.

I wrote this book because I feel that the amount of misinformation on chiropractic is scandalous and demands a critical evaluation of the evidence. The book deals with many questions that consumers often ask:

- How well-established is chiropractic?
- What treatments do chiropractors use?
- What conditions do they treat?
- What claims do they make?
- Are their assumptions reasonable?
- Are chiropractic spinal manipulations effective?
- Are these manipulations safe?
- Do chiropractors behave professionally and ethically?

Am I up to this task, and can you trust my assessments? These are justified questions; let me try to answer them by giving you a brief summary of my professional background.

I grew up in Germany where SCAM is hugely popular. I studied medicine and, as a young doctor, was enthusiastic about SCAM. After several years in basic research, I returned to clinical medicine, became professor of rehabilitation medicine first in Hanover, Germany, and then in Vienna, Austria. In 1993, I was appointed as Chair in Complementary Medicine at the University of Exeter. In this capacity, I built up a multidisciplinary team of scientists conducting research into all sorts of SCAM with one focus on chiropractic. I retired in 2012 and am now an emeritus professor. I have published many peer-reviewed articles on the subject, and I have no conflicts of interest. If my long career has taught me anything, it is this: in the best interest of consumers and patients, we must insist on sound evidence; not opinion, not wishful thinking; evidence.

In critically assessing the issues related to chiropractic, I am guided by the most reliable and up-to-date scientific evidence. The conclusions I reach often suggest that chiropractic is not what it is often cracked up to be. Hundreds of books have been published that disagree. If you are in doubt who to trust, the promoter or the critic of chiropractic, I suggest you ask yourself a simple question: who is more likely to provide impartial information, the chiropractor who makes a living by his trade, or the academic who has researched the subject for the last 30 years?

This book offers an easy to understand, concise and dependable evaluation of chiropractic. It enables you to make up your own mind. I want you to take therapeutic decisions that are reasonable and based on solid evidence. My book should empower you to do just that.



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

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.

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

Recommended Reading

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



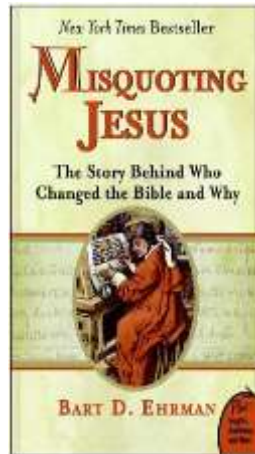
We all want to lead a happy life. Traditionally, when in need of guidance, comfort or inspiration, many people turn to religion. But there has been another way to learn how to live well - the humanist way - and in today's more secular world, it is more relevant than ever.

In *The Little Book of Humanism*, Alice Roberts and Andrew Copson share over two thousand years of humanist wisdom through an uplifting collection of stories, quotes and meditations on how to live an ethical and fulfilling life, grounded in reason and humanity.

With universal insights and beautiful original illustrations, *The Little Book of Humanism* is a perfect introduction to and a timeless anthology of humanist thought from some of history and today's greatest thinkers.

For almost 1,500 years, the New Testament manuscripts were copied by hand—and mistakes and intentional changes abound in the competing manuscript versions. Religious and biblical scholar Bart Ehrman makes the provocative case that many of our widely held beliefs concerning the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, and the divine origins of the Bible itself are the results of both intentional and accidental alterations by scribes.

In this compelling and fascinating book, Ehrman shows where and why changes were made in our earliest surviving manuscripts, explaining for the first time how the many variations of our cherished biblical stories came to be, and why only certain versions of the stories qualify for publication in the Bibles we read today. Ehrman frames his account with personal reflections on how his study of the Greek manuscripts made him abandon his once ultra-conservative views of the Bible.



Dissecting the biggest medical myths and pseudoscience, *Viral BS* explores how misinformation can spread faster than microbes.

Can your zip code predict when you will die? Will testosterone supplements boost your libido? Should you space out childhood vaccines? Does talcum powder cause cancer? Why do some doctors recommend e-cigarettes while other doctors recommend you stay away from them? Health information—and misinformation—is all around us, and it can be hard to separate the two. A long history of unethical medical experiments and medical mistakes, along with a host of celebrities spewing anti-science beliefs, has left many wary of science and the scientists who say they should be trusted. How do we stay sane while unraveling the knots of fact and fiction to find out what we should really be concerned about, and what we can laugh off?



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

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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
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26. The Philosophy of Humanism Corliss Lamont
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Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. We strongly emphasize creative childrearing. You can connect with other families dealing with the same problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly humanist way of life.

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

Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. Come and do something fun, socialize, enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, a museum, go swimming, & sometimes we leave the kids at home. We organize Tampa & Manatee/Sarasota area outings every month.

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

Thanks, Jennifer Hancock

The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers (MAAF)

The **MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH)** community was created for atheist & secular humanist military personnel stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, their families, & retired military residing in the Tampa Bay area.

MASH provides a valuable & much needed resource in which you will find common ground to socialize, discuss issues, & draw emotional support from like-minded freethinking members.

Tampa Bay Thinkers

Be part of the conversation on Monday October 12th online at 7 PM Topic: **Jeremy Rifkin**

Jeremy Rifkin is an American economic and social theorist, writer, public speaker, political advisor, and activist. Rifkin is the author of 21 bestselling books about the impact of scientific and technological changes on the economy, the workforce, society, and the environment.

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

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Join us to discuss **Why does Human Life Have value**

Saturday Afternoon 3 PM, October 17th on Zoom.

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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

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UU Humanists of Clearwater

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

UU Humanists of Tampa

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11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
Sarasota, Florida

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

Tampa Bay CoR

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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

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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!*

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with Frank Leon Roberts
- Oct. 7 • 7pm • Poetry Reading with Jericho Brown ([see page 6](#))
- Oct. 29 • 7pm • Book Group: Ordinary Girls
- Dec. 3 • 7pm • Book Group: Citizen
- TBA • 7pm • Humanities & Hops: Finding Your Calling



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>



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Ruth Bader Ginsburg dedicated her life to the pursuit of justice. She championed the movement for gender equity and cast important votes in support of reproductive rights, voting rights, LGBTQ rights, criminal justice, and keeping government secular. Our hearts are with her loved ones during this time as well as all those who grieve her loss.

Now it's up to us.

Our civil rights and the First Amendment are on the line. We must continue the struggle for the rights—including the separation of church and state—that Justice Ginsburg spent her life working to protect.

The Senate views her death as an opportunity and is trying to exploit it to grab another seat on the United States Supreme Court by pushing through the nomination of a far-right justice in the middle of a presidential election. Voters must have our say and this nomination should come from the next, duly elected president. **If these Senators get their way, the wall of separation between church and state and our fundamental human rights could be in jeopardy for a generation.**

News Dept. - American Humanist Assoc.



Article Title	Short Connections	URL - Just click...
Supreme Court Nominee Amy Coney Barrett: A Threat To Religious Freedom For All		https://www.au.org/blogs/wall-of-separation/supreme-court-nominee-amy-coney-barrett-a-threat-to-religious-freedom-for
American Atheists' Statement on Supreme Court Nominee Amy Coney Barrett		https://www.atheists.org/2020/09/amy-coney-barrett-nomination/
FFRF warns Barrett would complete Christian Nationalist takeover of Supreme Court		https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37925-ffrf-warns-barrett-would-complete-christian-nationalist-takeover-of-supreme-court
Pompeo's relentless misuse of his position		https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37920-ffrf-slams-pompeo-s-relentless-misuse-of-his-position
American Atheists Warns Albuquerque Schools about Religious Propaganda in Online Classes		https://www.atheists.org/2020/09/religious-propaganda-online-classes-new-mexico/
"Star Trek" legend on "Freethought Matters"		https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37919-john-de-lancie-on-freethought-matters-this-sunday
FFRF reports to IRS Kansas senatorial candidate's religious politicking		https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/37917-ffrf-reports-to-irs-kansas-senatorial-candidate-s-religious-politicking
New Year Poem for 5781		https://shj.org/new-year-poem-for-5781/
YOM KIPPUR REFLECTION		https://shj.org/yom-kippur-reflection/
What's At Stake At The Supreme Court: The Rights Of Non-Christians And Non-Believers		https://www.au.org/blogs/court-minority-rights
BN's 10th Anniversary Celebration		https://blacknonbelievers.com/2020/09/23/bns-10th-anniversary-celebration-safe-and-fun/
What's At Stake At The Supreme Court: The Religious Freedom Rights Of Public School Students		https://www.au.org/blogs/school-prayer-shift
American Atheists Warns States Across Country about Religious Propaganda in Online School Classes		https://www.atheists.org/2020/09/religious-propaganda-online-public-school-classes/
What's At Stake At The Supreme Court: Your Right To Be Free From Discrimination		https://www.au.org/blogs/court-religious-freedom-stake
Trump Wants To Fill The Supreme Court Vacancy Quickly. Americans United Is On The Case.		https://www.au.org/blogs/trump-judicial-nominee
August BBN Roundup, plus Team and Picture of the Month Winners!		https://foundationbeyondbelief.org/news/August-2020-BBN-roundup
Statement on the Death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg		https://www.atheists.org/2020/09/death-of-ruth-bader-ginsburg/
Beneficiary Spotlight: All Hands and Hearts		https://foundationbeyondbelief.org/news/AHAH
Ohio Lawmakers Sneak Through Ban on Closing Churches, Jeopardizing Public Health		https://www.atheists.org/2020/09/ohio-church-closing-ban/
Happy New Year 5781! The Meaning of the High Holidays for Humanistic Jews		https://shj.org/happy-new-year-5781-the-meaning-of-the-high-holidays-for-humanistic-jews/
Week of 9/14/2020		https://aeu.org/2020/09/week-of-9-14-2020/
New DeVos Education Regulation Forces Universities to Fund Discriminatory Religious Groups and Weakens Free Speech on Campuses		https://www.atheists.org/2020/09/devos-religious-student-groups/
AA Launches Investigation into Religious Propaganda in School Courses During COVID-19		https://www.atheists.org/2020/09/religious-propaganda-online-learning-public-schools/



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – **October**, 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	S 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 Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home
TBA - numerous events—this semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary! Page 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/>