

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

Volume 2 No. 2 Feb. 2013 Jim Peterson, Editor

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CHARLES DARWIN DAY - A DAY OF SCIENCE
The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason Presents,

Darwin's Gift

A half day exploration of the meaning and potential of Science.

**Saturday, February 9th 2013
10 AM to 2 PM**

Among our distinguished speakers will be:

**Sean Faircloth*, of the Dawkins Institute

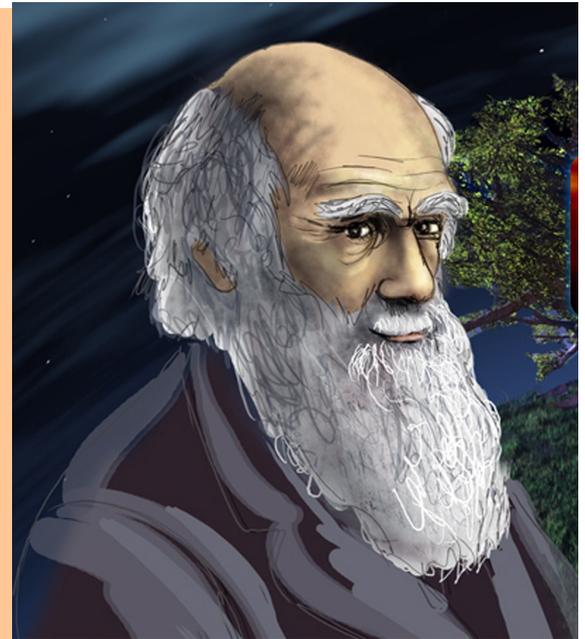
**Jim Strayer*, Biologist, Univ. Michigan

**Ryan Cragun*, Ph. D. Univ. Tampa

This will be at the **Clearwater UU Hall at 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater.**

The cost is \$20 after Feb 1st, or \$15 before Jan 31st. Price includes lunch.

Tickets may be purchased from CoR Organizations, or be ordered from event Facilitator, Rick O'Keefe. Mail your check made out to TBCoR, or credit card#, exp., and full name on card to: **TBCoR c/o O'Keefe, 4011 S Manhattan Ave. Box 139, Tampa, FL 33611.**



Directory

**Tampa Bay
Coalition of Reason**

Calendar

Rick O'Keefe

Web site

Jim Peterson

Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects

Mark Brandt

Winterfest: a Major Success for the Coalition

Nearly 100 happy Humanists, Atheists, and Freethinkers gathered this past January 19th at the UUC social hall to celebrate themselves, their movement and the opportunities afforded by a new year.



Sean Faircloth - served as the Secular Coalition for America's Executive Director from 2009 to 2011. He is now the Director of Strategy and Policy at the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science,

Ryan Cragun - specializes in the sociological study of religion, in particular religious change, growth, and decline at the meso and macro levels; individual level religious change; religion and health; and religion and education. He also conducts research in social psychology, in particular the role of conflict and status change.

Jim Strayer -evolutionary biologist, and Darwin expert .

This will be your opportunity to inquire about some of the central ideas and current issues that will shape our future. As rational people, it is our responsibility to try to ensure that society marshals its best resources for the difficult times that lie ahead. This includes the struggle against the anti-rational forces that continue to dominate our society. Science is a powerful ally. Its methods and the body of knowledge it has created defines the success of the human species. Be there!



Click to connect!

TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON – FEBRUARY, 2013 CALENDAR

This is produced from preliminary information. Check to insure the event is being held, when and where . . .

We are not liable for errors or omissions. Compiled by *Rick O'Keefe*, with *Dale Friedley & Jim Peterson*.

Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>

02-09, Saturday, 10 AM		MID-PINELLAS— See You at Darwin Day!	See our Meetup for the venue.	Details and RSVP—go here: http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/events/96073622/
02-02, Saturday, 2 PM		CLEARWATER— The Humanist Society of the Suncoast	Countryside Library 2741 S.R 580 Clearwater, FL MAP	Program: The meaning of Humanism See page 3 for details
03-03 Sunday, 11:00 AM		APOLLO BEACH— Humanist Families of Tampa	Orlando	Orlando Science Ctr. Family outings and other activities are ongoing. For more information, see our Facebook page
02-07, Thursday, 7 PM		S. PINELLAS— Pinellas County Skeptics	To be determined. See the website .	Monthly skeptical dinner
02-10, Sunday, 7 PM		BRANDON— Joint CFI & Brandon Atheists	See Meetup for the venue.	RSVP to Kathryn before noon of the Friday, preceding the social. http://www.meetup.com/cfi-tampa-bay
02-10, Sunday, 1:30 PM		TAMPA— Atheists of Florida—Tampa Chapter Web: http://atheistsoffloridainc.org	Atheists of Florida Office 5103 South Westshore Blvd Tampa, FL (just four blocks south of Gandy Blvd., west side.)	Details & RSVP at our Meetup site: http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/ Blog: http://aofla.wordpress.com
03-16, Saturday, 11:00 AM		TAMPA— Tampa Humanist Association	Jimmie B. Keele Library 2902 W. Bearss Ave Tampa, FL MAP	Program: Meet Luis Granados. See page 7 . http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
02-09, Saturday, 7:00 PM Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason		CLEARWATER—Darwin Day for All Tampa Bay Humanists, Skeptics, & Atheists.	Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Clearwater 2470 Nursery Road Clearwater, FL 33764 MAP	See for details: Support Science and Reason: a grand tour Includes lunch \$15 before 1/30 -\$20 after or at door.
02-18, Monday, 6:30 PM		CARROLLWOOD— Tampa Bay Thinkers Discussion Group	Carrollwood Cultural Center 4537 Lowell Rd, Carrollwood, FL 33618 MAP	“Can Folklore be rational?” RSVP at Web site .
02-24, Thursday, 7 PM		N. PINELLAS— Pinellas County Skeptics	For details & to RSVP, see the website .	Monthly skeptical dinner
Every 2 weeks in North Tampa TBA,		Café Philo	Check website for current times & locations	Philosophical discussion group in Tampa Click to RSVP
Darwin Day is our meeting. 02-09, Saturday, 10 AM		BRANDON— CFI Skeptic/Humanist Mixer	See the Meetup for details & the RSVP (required).	Your RSVP is needed ASAP. http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
01-28, Monday, 6:00 PM,		CLEARWATER— UU Humanists	Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Clearwater 2470 Nursery Road Clearwater, FL 33764 MAP	RSVP is required if you are coming. <i>Seating is limited to 12!</i> Click here before noon, xxx (Sunday). Click HERE .
02-23 Saturday 11:30 AM		TBA — CFI Skeptics/Humanists Social	See the Meetup for details & the RSVP (required) before noon of the Sunday preceding the social..	
		NW Hillsborough / Westchase CFI Share Readers Book Discussion	Upper Tampa Bay Regional Library 11211 Countryway Blvvd. Tampa, FL 33626 MAP	A group of us like minded book lovers will gather monthly to discuss we've all read. RSV & details: www.meetup.com/cfi-tampa-bay/events/101158812
Annual meeting in March.		Americans United for Separation of Church & State	TBA	Details forthcoming



The Humanist Society ³ of the Suncoast News

A Socratic society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is well worth living.
Associate organization of the [Humanists of Florida](#), the [AHA](#), [COR](#), and [CSH](#). Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

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Conversations about Humanism

In this session we will consider why it is precisely that we are here. What is it about Humanism that draws interest and over so long a span of time.?

1. Where did Humanism come from? Why do human beings ask certain kinds of questions, even when it goes against the grain of the prevailing religious and political belief system?
2. What does Humanism contribute to contemporary society? What role does it play in American and world intellectual life, and how does that role intersect with the lives of all citizens?
3. How can Humanists contribute to meeting the challenges of our future? Will it, or should it participate more directly in the political process outside discussions of policy?

Join Us !

Find us

in the **Countryside Library** at
2741 State Rd. 580 in Clearwater.

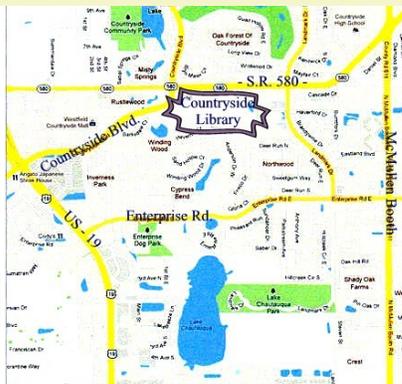


Food: the first kindness. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings. An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others.

There is increasing hunger here in our community.

Don't forget to bring canned and boxed food or checks for:

Tampa Bay Harvest.



**Please join us for
this free and open
discussion.**

**On Saturday,
February
2nd.
at 2 PM:**

**Clearwater
Countryside Library
2741 State Rd. 580
Clearwater, FL 33761**

Following our
meeting, many of us
will dine and argue
together at the
Greek City Cafe,

Volume 21 No. 2

February, 2013

Don't forget!

This is dues renewal season. See page [5](#) for the form. Note that by contributing at the \$35-40 level you are eligible to receive a handsome "Happy Humanist" Lapel pin. Wear it with pride, as it identifies you as a proud member of an organized movement of people who think for themselves. Your contributions will allow us to open opportunities for others to discover the difference organized humanism makes in the tenor and quality of life*. For those who think it important to help Humanism become the living philosophy of the majority, here is an opportunity to join with us and build a foundation for a new way of being human.

(* And if you like to help the tenor, " you might feel good helping the soprano too!)



James Randi is one of the world's most accomplished stage magicians. His mind-numbing feats of legerdemain have been witnessed by millions of people. He has used his fame as a platform to champion the cause of reason and critical thinking. [The James Randi Educational Foundation](#) was founded in 1996 to help people defend themselves from paranormal and pseudoscientific claims. The JREF offers a still-unclaimed million-dollar reward for anyone who can produce evidence of paranormal abilities under controlled conditions. Through scholarships, workshops, and innovative resources for educators, the JREF works to inspire this investigative spirit in a new generation of critical thinkers.

We need your help to create a world where everyone has access to the tools of science and critical thinking, and charlatans can't get rich by deceiving people. You can make a difference by becoming a member, taking action with us to stop paranormal and pseudoscientific frauds, or joining us at the Amazing Meeting, the world's premier gathering of skeptical thinkers.



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

What is the Humanist Way?

1. To extend a human centered approach to the critical problems of life and society.
2. To encourage attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance and a loving generosity in human relationships, and in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others and encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture and experience.
3. To develop and popularize the skills of creative and critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition and irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.
4. To exalt those artistic and imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure and enlightenment, and which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, and other expressions, we embrace the essence of what it means to be human.
5. To explore the grounds of ethics and 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

Our monthly social dinner,

Our February social dinner will take place at:

the Pizza Shack

on Sunday February 17th at 5:00PM. Fine Italian cuisine is featured at reasonable prices. Many in our group have liked their Italian dishes in the past. This restaurant is located at 11963 Indian Rocks Rd just a block north of Walsingham Rd in Largo - about 1 1/2 miles east of Gulf Blvd across from a Publix in a small strip center.

Please contact Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email at kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com for reservations by Saturday February 16th.

Laugh Lines When Insults had Class

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - **Moses Hadas**

"He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." - **Abraham Lincoln**

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - **Mark Twain**

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - **Oscar Wilde**

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend if you have one." - **George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill**

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second if there is one." - **Winston Churchill (in response to G.B. Shaw's invitation)**

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - **Stephen Bishop**

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - **John Bright**

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - **Irvin S. Cobb**

"There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure." - **Jack E. Leonard**

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." - **Charles, Count Talleyrand**

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - **Forrest Tucker**

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - **Mark Twain**

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - **Mae West**

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - **Oscar Wilde**

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts, for support rather than illumination." - **Andrew Lang (1844-1912)**

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - **Billy Wilder**

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc.
The Association of Secular Humanist Societies

Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

Steve Brown, VP

Terry Eckstien

Lois Fries, Secretary

Jon Green

Jim Peterson, President

Frank Prah

Marios Psomas, treasurer

Emeritus members: Anita Garcia,

Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore, Mark

Winterbottom, Bob Collette, Glenn

Paul, Don Acenbrach Dec., Jackie

Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,

Matt Cooper, Jim Butler

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

Jordan Williams, Publisher.

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

How you can Help

I hope these general notes are helpful.

Contribute to the welfare of our own local chapter by leading efforts to bridge gaps, bring tolerance and social unity, and exercise kindness everywhere. A little financial help is always appreciated as well. **Start by renewing your membership!**

At a recent board meeting, we made plans to participate with an **information table** at a major public event in the coming year.

We are putting together a **Speakers Bureau** for outreach. You can help in many ways.

And we need help in setting up our meetings: chairs, electronic components when needed, literature and food collection tables. **See a Board member** to offer your help. **JP**

A Humanist Helping Hand

Several members have formed a caring response team to help members of our Humanist family who may need supportive practical help. This is an independent group, not affiliated directly with the Humanist Society. But their efforts are wholly consistent with the Humanist outlook. Contact a helper below if you or another member needs help or wishes to participate.

- ◆ Terri Eckstien (813) 891-9399
- ◆ Jerry Moore (727) 455-4973
- ◆ Nan Owens (727) 424-2558
- ◆ Patricia Walters (813) 988-5977



FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Dear ACLU supporter,

Feel a little less free than you did two years ago? There's a reason for that. In the past two years, Floridians have faced an unprecedented attack on civil liberties. Whether it has been the right to vote, freedom from unreasonable searches by government officials, the protection of personal privacy, religious freedom or freedom of speech, the ACLU has had to spend the last two years protecting Floridians' rights from their own governor and legislature.

With committee hearings for the new legislative session just around the corner, we've released a new report, [Protecting the Rights of Floridians in the Rick Scott Era](#), that documents the work we've done to stop this onslaught of the past two years.

The report details nine lawsuits that the ACLU has been involved in to protect the rights of Floridians, as well as other grassroots and lobbying efforts we've taken with ACLU supporters like you. We also touched on plans for how we will continue to protect our individual rights in the next two years. There's even funny anecdotes from the court of public opinion, like when our work got featured on The Daily Show and The Colbert Report.

In order to prepare for what may come next in the fight over personal freedoms, civil libertarians like you need to know how we got to where we are. That's why we created the report: so that you can be [informed and prepared to help in the fights ahead](#).

If we've learned anything from the past two years, it's that we need to be prepared for anything from the our legislature. We hope this report will be useful in helping you prepare for the next two years.

[READ THE REPORT](#)

Thank you for standing with us in defense of liberty.

ACLU of Florida
www.aclufl.org



People
Over Politics

~ Time to Renew ~ ⁵

The Humanist Society
of the Suncoast.

Annual Dues

_ Trial -3 month- free news

_ Regular -**\$25.**

_ Reg. Couple -**\$30.**

_ **Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin)**

_ Life -**\$200.**

_ Life Couple -**\$250.**

_ Associate -**\$10.**

_ **Contribution for growth**

New!



If new, please fill out the form;
if renewing just indicate your name and any
changes from our previous information. Thanks!

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send to:

Glenn Paul, Asst. Treasurer
Humanist Society of the Suncoast
2507 First St. #E
Indian Rocks Beach
33785-3010

Humanist Quotes

“True freedom is the capacity for acting according to one's true character, to be altogether one's self, to be self-determined and not subject to outside coercion.”

Corliss Lamont,
1902-1995, philosopher



Atheists of Florida



Chair, Tracy Thomas
President, Ed Golly
Vice President, Frank Prahl
Treasurer, Nan Owens

AoF outreach programs can be found at our [Meetup](#) site. The next chapter meeting is a pot luck on Feb. 10th at 1:30 **5103 S Westshore Blvd. Tampa**. Light refreshments will be served. Current newsletters are available by writing to: AthAIFLE@aol.com.

Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts (audio & video) in the offing very soon. Let us know if you wish to participate. We are a resource for those with questions and doubts about the standard religious narrative of life. At the same time, we bring a human centered ethic to bear in serving our fellow human beings as they struggle to overcome the delusional psychology of years of religious conditioning.

As an institution committed to bring the enormously prolific benefits of the atheist proposition to ever larger numbers of our citizens, we desire to enable an enlightened majority of truly free people to turn their intelligence toward the real problems we all must face.



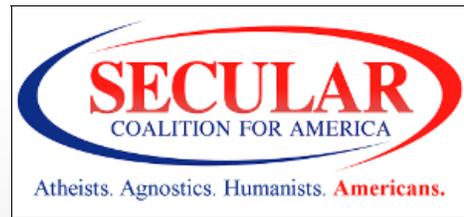
We are honored to have **Jim Strayer*** as a guest speaker at our meeting - he will be speaking about The immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer, yet her cells -- taken without her knowledge -- became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer and viruses; helped lead to in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks is buried in an unmarked grave. Her family did not learn of her "immortality" until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. The story of the Lacks family is connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of. *a retired teacher of biology. Strayer penned 42 columns titled *The Solution is Evolution* for the AOF newsletter. They are available as a single publication from AOF

Bank of Wisdom *Electronic publishing to make the world better*

These Rare Books are Amazing, and only a penny a page. Bank of Wisdom is listing thousands of Rare and Suppressed books in PDF format. These eBooks have a picture of every page so exact reliability is maintained. Yet these eBooks can be Searched and the Cut-and-Paste feature is active, these books can be used for scholarly research, and quoted by page and paragraph, just like the actual book. And for the casual reader there is no end of amazing and interesting facts and ideas that will enlighten, educate, astound, and elevate your view of History and the World. Most important we specialize in books to un-brainwash. The cost of most PDF instant downloads is \$.01 per page. (\$1.00 per hundred page book.) Set up your account here:

<http://bankofwisdom.com>



Atheists. Agnostics. Humanists. Americans.

**National Secular Movement Update
Newsletter and Call
Call Every Thursday from 12PM - 12:30PM (ET)
Phone Number: 559-726-1300 Code: 199568**

<http://secular.org/>



Freethinkers@USF is a multicultural, interdisciplinary student society which welcomes USF students who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, humanists, or religiously open-minded who seek to promote reason, compassion, tolerance, and free inquiry on campus. We hope to contribute opportunity for interdisciplinary dialog to the USF community, and build scientific literacy for all to enable objective and rational interpretations of issues affecting our lives. The student organization is open to anyone of any religious persuasion or personal beliefs. Write Rodrick Colbert or freethinkersusf@gmail.com for details.

Clearwater UU Humanists

We are a group of Unitarian Universalists committed to a humanistic and non-theistic worldview. Currently, meetings are scheduled once a month and are usually held on the third Sunday of most months from 12.30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services.

The UU Humanists are open to all aspects of humanism, including investigation of religious humanism. However, the focus of the group is on secular aspects of humanism.

Programs have been well received with attendance between 50 and 75. To learn more, please contact: co-facilitators: Bill Norsworthy bnorsworthy@verizon.net Mark Brandt mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu Web site: www.uuclearwater.org



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will be meeting on Sat. February 9th, at 10 am, for it's regular monthly meeting which will be the CoR Darwin Day. We will meet in the Unitarian-Universalist social hall at the UUC at 2470 Nursery Road in Clearwater. Ticket: \$15 before Jan 30. \$20 after. Lunch included. All are welcome. See the announcement on [page 1](#) about this first annual Bay Area Freethinkers Darwin Day vent, hosted by UUH.



Florida Now

<http://www.flnow.org/>

NOW is a multi-issue political organization. NOW's self-defined role has been to initiate change for the benefit of the greatest number of people, to affect the legal and institutional structures of the society in a way that systematically expands the choices and possibilities available to all women. In this way, NOW takes action to bring women, as a class, into the mainstream of society, rather than offering aid to individual women in achieving personal solutions or temporary relief from oppression.

The Florida National Organization for Women (NOW) is in strong opposition to the Personhood Amendment ballot initiative for which the organization Personhood Florida is currently collecting signatures, according to Florida NOW president Donna Slutiak. "This amendment is ridiculous and an insult to women," Slutiak said. "The issue of Personhood would have very far reaching results, and would do more than criminalize abortion; it would also make birth control pills and the IUD illegal in the state of Florida. The amendment states that human life begins at the time when an egg is fertilized, which will also impact in-vitro-fertilization clinics. How would you like your mother's fertilized eggs that are sitting in a clinic freezer to have inheritance rights?"

Do you want to have to go underground to get your birth control pills?" Florida NOW expects all intelligent people to pledge not to sign this initiative, and to vote against it, if by some fluke it does get on the ballot. Personhood is bad for womanhood."

Tampa Humanist Association

Saturday, **March 16th**, 2013 at
11.00 am Jimmie B. Keele Library,
2902 W. Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL.
Look for the Tampa Humanist Assoc. sign.



Talk with Author,
Luis Granados

Damned Good Company is a book about people, not about God. People who have preached about God, taken money for sharing what they say they know about God, and ordered others about to enforce what they claim to be God's will—and a small band of heroes who stood up to them.

In short, *Damned Good Company* is a *Profiles in Courage* for humanists.

Some of the twenty heroes of *Damned Good Company* are well-known: Erasmus, Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Clarence Darrow, Atatürk, Nehru, Steve Biko. Others are not: people like Han Yü, banished from the 9th century Chinese court for questioning the worship of the Buddha's finger, and Lucy Harris, who came within an inch of deflating Mormonism before it got off the ground.

Each hero is contrasted with a villain of his or her time and place: either a God expert like Martin Luther or Joseph Smith or a cynical politician like Mussolini, who never believed in God but exploited religion shamelessly to advance his political ambition.

The stories in *Damned Good Company* will inspire those today who want to stand up to the Christian Right, the Muslim fanatics, the oppressiveness of Catholic and Jewish orthodoxy, the rising Hindu Taliban, and everyone else who claims a God-given right to tell the rest of us what to do.

Damned Good Company is available from HumanistPress.com and all major online ebook retailers. ---AHA



The Tampa Humanist Association is the only AHA Humanist group in Hillsborough County. This is a county of more than 1 million people. If statistical averages are correct, than at least 150,000 of those people do not support conventional institutions of religion. Currently, our roles do not number more than 20. I think we can agree that there is room for growth.

We experienced a major setback with the death of president and cofounder Rob Byrch, but with still enthusiastic members and board, and support from our sister organization, the Humanist Society of the Suncoast, we continue to offer the people of Tampa, a local Humanist option.

Join today, or renew your dues. Only \$25/ year or \$35 with the Happy Humanist pin. \$5 more includes spouse + 2 pins.

CAMP INQUIRY
IMAGINE. INVESTIGATE. ILLUMINATE.
[Click to register](#) for next year
Ages 7-16, Holland, NY

Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future



Tampa Bay CoR
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area:

Americans United,* Tampa Humanist Association, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Center for Inquiry, UU Humanists Clearwater, UU Humanists Tampa,* Secular Student Alliance USF,* Atheists of Florida, Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought ideas and principles.

(*= not currently members of the Coalition)

Member organizations and agencies should contact the following CoR representatives about the matters indicated:

Calendar:
Rick O'Keefe

Newsletter:
Jim Peterson

Web site:
Jim Peterson

Special Projects
Mark Brandt

For several years now, various leaders of the Freethought community in the bay area have been meeting informally to share experiences, and occasionally to coordinate plans. But recently, changing circumstances have brought additional pressure to cooperate in bringing programs and members services to an expanding movement.

At this point leaders continue to meet, and together with the various boards of directors and committees, try to develop policies that will enable every group to enhance its unique role in serving its members.

There appears to be general agreement on developing several community wide programs over the year that will allow significant speakers to be presented in our area. The costs of these programs will be shared among the organizations proportionally.

Thus substantive and exciting new activities will be offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before. We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason and its director, Fred Edwards. You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God. Millions are!"

TBCoR is an alliance of groups identified with the freethought / Humanist /Atheist movement.

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments. JP

TBPCC is an autonomous adjunct to the Humanist Society.

Yemen could very likely be the first country to completely run out of water.

Since the 1960s, water levels in the Dead Sea have fallen almost 150 feet. 19 of their 21 aquifers have water tables dropping by over 6 feet per year.

The country's capital, Sana, has made tap water available once in every four days [a smaller city further south only has *one day of water every 20 days*]. Even with this rationing, they expect to run dry within 6 years. Nothing will make the water return. No government action, no conservation method. Desalinization efforts will hardly make a dent. You may have become immune to the headlines discussing the unprecedented shift across the globe. Drought conditions, extreme weather patterns, geopolitical risks, financial meltdown and high unemployment are only to name a few. Those are what make headlines. Behind the scenes, a fragile, interconnected system is quickly coming apart sometimes all too gradually.

You may not know it, but the across the globe, the tropical zone is moving north. In fact, the tropical band which includes a majority of the globe's rainfall shifted 5 degrees in latitude, or 343 miles.

It took over 400 years to do so at first. Now *Scientific American* expects it to happen again in the next 85 years. The damaging effect is flooding in places that have never seen it. Last year, Canada was 90% behind in planting its wheat because of muddy fields. All the while, Texas and Mexico were suffering their worst drought in decades. You see, as the tropics move further north, the subtropics follow. The subtropical belt suffers severe drought. You're seeing the effects in the southwest America's, but you probably don't know how severe this has been in the Middle East.



Click www.tampabaypostcarbon.com for more.

Humanist Books

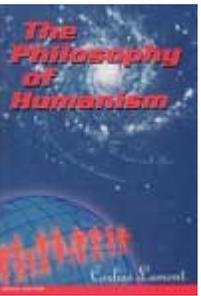


[One Planet One People](#) by Carl Coon \$22.



Former Ambassador to Nepal, Carl Coon provides a highly readable overview of the evolution of human society, arguing that the 21st century will witness a crucially important and difficult transition for the human race. Blending the disciplines of anthropology and evolutionary psychology with over thirty years of experience in the diplomatic corps, Coon traces the evolution of the human tendency to divide others into two groups, "us versus them." Today, he argues, we have reached a stage where the whole world must be viewed as "us," if we are to overcome the global challenges we face. Hardcover 149 pp.

[The Philosophy of Humanism](#) - Dr. Corliss Lamont \$16.95



In a work that is a standard text and reference in the ongoing international discussion around secular humanism, Lamont offers an argument for a philosophy that advocates for happiness in this life rather than hope for an undefined afterlife. Paperback, 371 pages.

These books and a great many more, plus pins buttons, stickers, etc. can be ordered

from:

Evolve Fish

<http://evolvefish.com/fish/HumanistPress.html>

Read Humanist Periodicals: The world's leading minds can be read at: [The Humanist](#), [Free Inquiry](#), [Free Mind](#), [Humanist Perspectives](#), [Skeptical Inquirer](#), [Secular Humanist Bulletin](#), The Florida Humanist Journal, [Skeptic](#), [Essays in Humanism](#), and many others. Look 'em up!

The Freedom from Religion Foundation



The history of Western civilization shows us that most social and moral progress has been brought about by persons free from religion. In modern times the first to speak out for prison reform, for humane treatment of the mentally ill, for abolition of capital punishment, for women's right to vote, for death with dignity for the terminally ill, and for the right to choose contraception, sterilization and abortion have been freethinkers, just as they were the first to call for an end to slavery. The Foundation works as an umbrella for those who are free from religion and are committed to the cherished principle of separation of state and church. Learn more [here](#).



CENTER FOR INQUIRY

News and Updates

Hot,
caffeinated
beverage
to
wake up
your body.



Outrageous, inspiring news to wake up
your brain.

We know. You're tired.

- You're tired of all the nonsense, myth-mongering, and faulty thinking that parades across your screen every day.
- Tired of explaining the difference between religious freedom and religious privilege... *again*.
- Tired of talking about the importance of free speech and the reality of evolution... *again*.
- Tired of always having to defend your nonbelief and skepticism, of always having to explain how you can be good without god and why the world is not about to end... *again*.

Also, well, you're just *tired*.

The good news is we get it and we're here to help.

Every day on the **CFI blog**, Paul Fidalgo brings you ***The Morning Heresy***, a clearinghouse of links you need to stay up to date and motivated about all things having to do with religion and irreligion, science and pseudoscience, and how they all affect our society and our lives. It's the finest daily digest of news relevant to the secular and skeptic community and it will help you ***wake the hell up and get busy!***

Now, not only can you wake up your brain, you can wake up your body, too, with the new [Morning Heresy mug!](#)

The quest for a more secular and reality-based society is a long-game. Don't go into battle empty handed. Make sure you bring something to wake you up—a caffeinated beverage and a daily reminder of how important it is that we all push past tired and keep doing what we do.

Get your Morning Heresy Mug from the CFI Store - [Here](#)

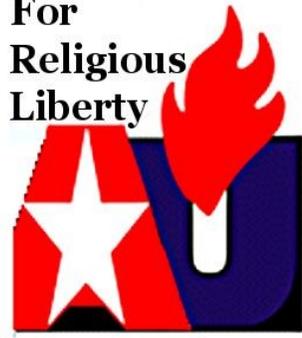
"...being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead."

Kurt Vonnegut

Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association

A Tradition of Advocacy

**For
Religious
Liberty**



**Americans United for Separation of
Church & State**
~ Pinellas County Chapter ~

For more information, see: <http://www.au.org/>
The Chapter meets at Good Samaritan Church
located at 6085 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park (61st St.).
Our annual meeting in March.



Compassion & Choices
Choice & Care at the End of Life.

**The Military Association of
Atheists and Freethinkers**



Nontheistic service members serve honorably throughout the world—always have; always will. However, nontheists are the last unprotected minority. The nontheistic, whether an atheist, humanist, agnostic, freethinker, or other secular minority, have a strong community.

Jason Torpy, a West Point graduate, serves as president of MAAF. He also holds seats on the boards of the Secular Coalition for America and the American Humanist Assoc.

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris

(christbrown@yahoo.com)

MSgt, USAF (Active) Co-Organizer:
MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists
(MASH) MacDill AFB, FL

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa



Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year.

There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly Humanist Way of life.

Jennifer is author of several books including; *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP
See much more at: www.Jen-Hancock.com

Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings and 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 and Carl Sagan Day in November.

Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa/>

Today's topic is: **Creating Courage.**

This has been on my mind lately. Last month - Jon Rosemond - a conservative child rearing expert talked about how we don't need to teach our kids to be confident. We need to teach them to be courageous. If they are willing to try things and figure them out - they will gain real confidence in knowing that if they apply themselves they can succeed. The problem isn't confidence, the problem is being willing to face our fears. My own son has been struggling with this as he learns to ride his bike without training wheels. So much of this task just comes down to him having the courage to try on his own and figure it out. It requires him to learn how to balance on his own. I can't help him learn that. He has to risk falling down in order to learn it. It is something that takes courage. As of today, he is now, officially, a bike rider. First comes courage then comes well earned confidence.

The same goes for having moral courage. If we want children, and therefore adults, to have the confidence to stand up for themselves when they are morally challenged, we first need to teach them to be courageous. In order to stand up to a bully, you have to be willing to have the bully turn on you. That takes courage. As a Humanist parent, I am not raising my son to be a Humanist. I am raising him to be morally courageous so that even if he doesn't have the confidence that he will succeed, that he will do the right thing anyway. And just like riding a bike, this isn't something that can be taught. It can only be encouraged.

It strikes me that much of my writing and more work is about exactly this. Encouraging people to be courageous enough to do the right thing. Knowing that once you try it for yourself, you will then have the confidence to move forward and do the right thing.

Jennifer Hancock

HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE

The need is great. All it takes is about an hour out of a day and the commitment to show up once a week. The feeling of having helped is most gratifying. How can we as Humanists not act to impact a child in the inner city in a positive manner?

YOU can give a child a much-needed hour of personal attention that will encourage reading and just might help them to move forward while improving their self-esteem.

In two 1-hour sessions, I have encountered children, some of whom have already had to repeat kindergarten, that barely recognize or are able to say the alphabet or the sound of the letter. This is half way through the school year. In two 1-hour sessions, 3 third-grade girls are unable to break down or sound out a word. They cannot grasp the concept of context since they are still struggling with the words.

Teachers struggle with discipline issues and the pressure of preparing the children for FCAT testing. With patience and intensive learning, you can help these children grow into their potential.

In Hillsborough County, contact:

Debra L. Blossom
Program Manager

Training and Volunteer Management

debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us

813.872-5254

Gale Barron
gfbshb@aol.com



Tampa Bay Secular Celebrants

Humanist Memorials, Weddings, Rites of Passage. Contact:

Rick O'Keefe, CFI certified,

Virginia Kohl-Lieberman, AHA certified



Institute for Science and Human Values

Inspired by Empathy, Creativity and guided by Reason

No Local chapters. See <http://www.instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.net/>

All people born on this planet received a legacy from generations past, as will future generations. Such legacies as science, art, philosophy, humanism, freedom and equality, are treasured because they enhance the human condition. Unfortunately, for most of the earth's inhabitants, the legacies they receive are greed, war, pollution, dominance, imposed ignorance, starvation, pain and suffering, and even death. The planet has become a playground for some of the world's most immoral people to impose their will on the rest of humanity as well as on the earth itself. As the unfolding world events are becoming more global in nature, the need for a unified planetary response is becoming more evident. If such immorality and greed are left unchecked, the results will be devastating to the planetary and human condition. Even though the past cannot be changed, the future certainly can be, and that's where we, the present, emerge as the shapers of the future.

What can be done? The course is clear for individuals that believe in a human condition that includes freedom of speech, the right to a healthy and clean planet, the right to hold an individual belief system, and the freedom from those who would take away these rights. Regardless of race, religion or ethnicity, likeminded people must work together as a planetary coalition, guided by ethics, science, reason, morality and empathy. This coalition must be vocal, active, and dedicated to using all the tools at their disposal to create a unified force that cannot be ignored. What tools can be used?

- **Ethics:** Whether we are theists, agnostics, or atheists, we can live our lives with compassion, reason, ethics and morality, and should not take advantage of others just because their condition makes them vulnerable. Our planetary responsibility should be to help the disadvantaged, not to exploit them. The right course of action is rarely the easiest at first, so we must be strong, and also join forces with likeminded individuals. There is strength in numbers.

- **Truth:** There is no substitute. We must become teachers and shine a light on ignorance and oppression. Not everyone is going to embrace the truth quickly or easily. For people to change their belief system, they have to be receptive to science and reason, and they have to be treated with the same respect that we would expect from them. That respect coupled with a humanist approach may just plant a seed that will grow into enlightenment.

- **Humanism:** We are all one planetary family, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity. What affects one of us will more than likely affect all of us.

- **Tolerance:** No two people will concur on every topic. My father used to tell me, "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." While that old adage is probably true with flies, it also applies to people. You cannot ridicule someone's beliefs and then expect fruitful dialogue to emerge.

- **Politics:** Form grassroots political organizations. We can vote against the officials that do not adhere to humanist ethics and vote for the officials that do. Support the candidates that are most aligned to the above beliefs. Support the organizations that are working to bring this metamorphosis about, for example, The Institute for Science and Human Values. These organizations need a lobbying arm that is working towards the same goals.

- I believe that the moral, humanist and empathetic fraction of humanity outnumbers the immoral and greedy part. I also believe that with perseverance and individual involvement we can eventually win this fight for a healthy planetary environment, where each individual has a chance for a good life. It won't be easy and it's certainly harder than doing nothing, but look at what doing nothing to change clearly bad situations has brought upon us in the past..

--- Jack Van Pelt



Compassion & Choices
Choice & Care at the End of Life.

CFI & Community Outreach

By Rick O'Keefe

CFI-Tampa Bay is pleased to be co-sponsoring February's Humanist Society of the Suncoast discussion on the nature of Humanism. Because education is at the core of Humanism and Center for Inquiry, here is a synopsis of what CFI offers, from the basics up through an accredited Masters course, plus Summer Camp for the kids.

The educational programs of CFI are concentrated in the [CFI Institute](#), founded in 1987. The Institute is the oldest continuously operating academic program of its kind in North America, the only one supported by a research organization or "think tank," and the only program staffed with resident fellows (faculty) and a significant number of distinguished visiting fellows.

We offer study of humanist thought and practice, with special reference to secular humanism and models and methods of scientific inquiry. Students can interact with and learn from the leading lights in the field of humanism and secularism. See our [Institute Catalogue here](#).



Rick O'Keefe



CFI Institute Online

The Institute now offers adult/continuing education seminar courses online, featuring leading authors, professors, and public figures focusing on issues such as science, secularism, humanism, and skepticism. Visit the [CFI Institute Online](#) for more information.

Science and the Public Ed.M.

CFI partners with the Graduate School of Education of the University at Buffalo in offering the accredited Ed.M. program in [Science and the Public](#), available entirely online!

Camp Inquiry

CFI also operates [Camp Inquiry](#), a summer camp that helps youth confront the challenges of living a non-theistic/secular lifestyle in a world dominated by religious belief and pseudoscience.

In 2013, Camp Inquiry will be in session from August 4th through August 12th. Registration will open after the new year. For more information please visit [campinquiry.org](#)

If you are unable to attend Camp Inquiry, please check the schedule for [Camp Quest](#), which offers a well-regarded secular summer camp at various locations throughout the United States.

Research in CFI Publications

Please visit the [CFI Publications](#) page for more information.

Philo: A Journal of Philosophy is a peer-reviewed academic journal which publishes original, conceptually precise, and argumentatively rigorous articles in all fields of philosophy. Although not devoted to any specific branch of philosophy, Philo encourages the submission of work that examines philosophical issues from an explicitly naturalist perspective. It also welcomes work on the philosophical credentials of both naturalism and various supernaturalist alternatives to naturalism.

The Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice is the only peer-reviewed journal devoted exclusively to distinguishing scientifically-supported claims from scientifically-unsupported claims in clinical psychology, psychiatry, social work, and allied disciplines.

Join CFI's **Humanist book club**, a monthly discussion. Contact David Vangness for details: [CLICK here](#).

National Events: May 17-29, 2013--[Women in Secularism](#)

Some of our divisions:

• [African Americans for Humanism](#)

• [Tampa Bay Skeptics](#) -- Central Florida's famous Skeptics assoc. See page 14.

• [The Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](#) -- world-wide assoc. of Skeptics and scientific investigations.

• [Cognitive Neuro Sciences, Inc.](#) -- Science-of-the-brain secular humanist oriented counseling/therapy center. Ideal for those wanting to avoid religious-oriented groups like AA.

• [Council for Secular Humanism](#) -- world-wide assoc. of Secular Humanists

To become part of our important work, and to make a difference, become a [member](#):

http://www.centerforinquiry.net/support/donate_now/

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the Humane use of technology. And always, there is the occasional random act of Kindness.

Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater:

Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Doc (Dave Dockery) President, Tampa Bay Computer Society

www.tampa-bay.org "We repair our members' computers for free!"





What is **Tampa Bay Skeptics**?

Founded in 1988, Tampa Bay Skeptics is a nonprofit educational and scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of **paranormal** and **fringe-science** claims, and the dissemination of factual information about such claims. In 2004, TBS became a Special Interest Group of the **Center For Inquiry–Tampa Bay**.

Particular areas of interest to TBS include **UFOs**, "**psychic**" **power**, **astrology**, **fringe science & medicine**, purported **miracles** and other **New Age** claims. Our interest in religion is restricted to claims that can be objectively tested and potentially verified, such as "weeping icons" or miraculous healings.

TBS conducts its own investigations, follows the activities of other skeptics groups, monitors the press coverage of the paranormal, and publishes a quarterly newsletter, ***Tampa Bay Skeptics Report***, which is also distributed gratis to members of the press and to many other skeptics groups around the world. TBS also makes its representatives available to local and national media to provide a skeptical voice as a counterweight to the irrationalism and superstition that is increasingly prevalent in the television and print media. We have been instrumental in examining and reporting upon the Tarpon Springs "weeping icon," hypnosis, (in)famous psychics, local astrologers, etc.

TBS does not reject claims out of hand, but rather is committed to objective and critical inquiry. In this vein, we share the philosophy of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (**CSI**) -- publisher of ***Skeptical Inquirer*** magazine, an international organization that has nurtured the growth of local skeptics groups (such as ours) all over the world.

**Attend the Tampa Bay Skeptics Quarterly Meeting Saturday, March 30, 2013, 11:00 AM
Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library on 3910 South Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611**

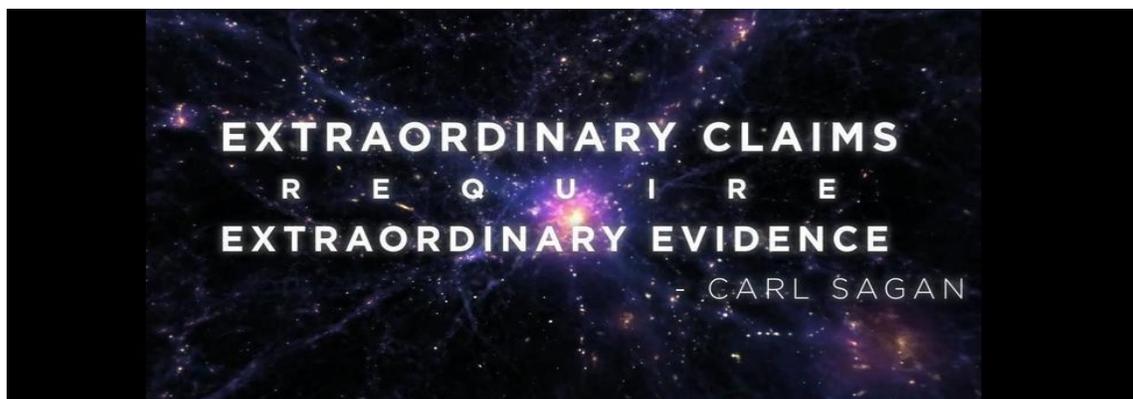
Membership in TBS

We encourage those who wish to help further the cause of skepticism to join TBS! You can take your first step, and make a statement about irrationality and superstition at the same time, by writing a check for \$15 to cover your first year's dues. Annual membership includes four issues of ***Tampa Bay Skeptics Report***, each snailmailed to you in advance of our quarterly meetings (last Saturday of every March, June, September, and December). Members also receive a 30% discount on any **Prometheus Books** purchased through TBS.

Make your \$15 check payable to "Tampa Bay Skeptics" and mail to:

CFI c/o O'Keefe, 4011 S. Manhattan Ave., Box 139, Tampa, FL 33611-1277

Or click to simply join our [TBS e-mail list\(s\)](#)? Or order [TBS T-shirts](#)? Or join [CFI–Tampa Bay](#)?





<http://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>

Practical Freethought

Thousands of your friends and neighbors in the Tampa Bay area feel the same as you. The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason is a group of local organizations joined together to increase the growth, visibility and acceptance of nontheists throughout the area.

All of these groups share common ground, while each has its own particular emphasis and atmosphere. Some are focused on scientific inquiry and education. Others are focused on ethics and community, activism or the arts. Others monitor state/church separation and fight for your civil rights. All alike are committed to promoting the wider acceptance of a more rational and contemporary view of humanity and the universe we live in.

TampaBayCoR.org is where secular people in the Tampa Bay area can discover groups to join, activities in which to participate, events to attend and like-minded people with which to socialize. In short, we want to help those who have grown beyond religious belief to find their philosophical home.

Those nonbelievers who are not ready, or who are unable, to “come out” can take comfort in knowing that they are not the only ones who accept the reality of a 100% natural world.

For the religious community, we want them to realize that, although nontheists reject the supernatural, we share with them compassionate human values that most religious believers embrace. In most ways, we are like them; hard working, taxpaying, moral citizens who care deeply about our families, our communities, our state and our country.

Nontheists are a large minority, larger than many minorities having much more political and cultural influence than we do. Based on the US Census Bureau estimate of Florida’s 2008 population and several polls, we estimate our statewide constituency at about 2,800,000 residents (more than 400,000 in the Tampa

Bay quad-county area). TampaBayCoR has organized to increase our standing in the marketplace of ideas and to take our rightful place at the table of acceptance and equal rights. We invite all nontheists to support us in our efforts by joining and actively participating in one of TBCoR’s constituent groups.

Even if you never join a group or attend a meeting you can help Florida move forward by contributing to local or national participating organizations. And you can always help to further the nontheistic community just by standing up proudly for your reality-based life among your friends and family. It’s OK to not believe in gods. And, yes—not only can you be good without a god or religion, but in most cases, far better off. Millions of us are.

R.O.

Holidays of Special Interest to Freethinkers

- **Feb. 1st** National Freedom Day
- **Feb. 12th** Birthday of Darwin & Lincoln
- **Feb. 17th** Random Acts of Kindness Day
- **Feb. 22th** World Thinking (GSA) Day
- **February** Black History Month
- **2013** International Year of Water Cooperation (UN)



TBCoR Leadership Team 2013

*Jim Peterson, Mark Brandt, Rick O'Keefe, Ed Golly,
Inset.- Jennifer Hancock*

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net