



**The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason**

# Freethought News



Vol. 7 No. 10, October, 2018  
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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**A PEOPLE'S FAIR  
CELEBRATING PEACE  
EDUCATION, DIVERSITY,  
& COMMUNITY ACTIVISM**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 20, 2018**

**10am-4pm At Gibbs High School  
850 34th Street So., ST. PETERSBURG FL  
33711**

## Electric Buses are Here! Wednesday, October 3 at 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

St Petersburg City Hall, 175 5th St N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Because you asked for them ... Tampa Bay's 1st zero emission all-electric buses are here! Join PSTA at St. Pete City Hall to check out the new clean, quiet buses - the first of 6 on their way today to this side of the Bay.

[RSVP via email](#)  
[Facebook event page](#)



## Listen to Freethought Radio Friday Afternoons at 2 PM

Atheists of Florida produces *Atheist Forum*, every week for your dining and dancing pleasure.

You will find a variety of subjects discussed, from atheism (of course) to science, politics, ethics, art and social culture.

The broadcast is available on WTAN-1340 and on the internet at [TanTalk1340.com](http://TanTalk1340.com)

Be sure to **call-in** 727-441-3000, with your questions and comments. See page 14 for more.

Check out twenty years worth of past programs of the Atheist Forum on our website [www.aof.ngo](http://www.aof.ngo) And check into our channel at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) for additional material.

### Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

**Calendar**  
Rick O'Keefe

**Web site**  
Jim Peterson

**Newsletter**  
Jim Peterson

**Special Projects**  
Mark Brandt  
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event websites at:  
[www.tampabaycor.net](http://www.tampabaycor.net) &  
[www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason](http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason)

See the full roster of the  
Leadership Board on Page 16.

This publication online at:  
[www.tampabaycor.net](http://www.tampabaycor.net)

M<sub>arch</sub>

Is

M<sub>ehta</sub>

M<sub>onth</sub>

Details upcoming!

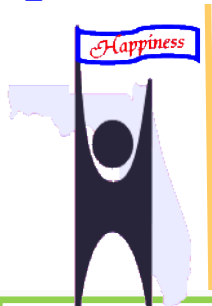
Watch for it...

## Seth Andrews

Author, radio personality  
former minister, now atheist



coming on November 10th  
at UUC-Humanists



# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast News

**An Epicurean society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is worth living well.**

Associate organization of the [Humanists of Florida](#), the [AHA](#), [COR](#), & [ASHS](#). Find us at [www.suncoasthumanist.com](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)

Volume 31 No. 10 October, 2018

## Gender Politics

In what surely is one of the most important issues of our time, the years of the Trump presidency has seen a tremendous upwelling in the activism around the status of women and the relations between the sexes.

The source of all this contention is the openly exploitative attitude of many leading public figures in both their hidden and public lives. The personal has become political.

Something as fundamental to human well being as the intrinsic need for an intimate social, economic, and emotional bond with another human being has become a political point of honor and contention.



How are we to reconcile the differentiated patterns of personal growth; the hormonal, physiological, and psychological dimensions so much at variance over time and experience?

In a culture that continues to value competition and acquisition over cooperation and the value of seeing to the needs of others before one's self, is it possible to avoid the seemingly inevitable clash of understanding that is manifest even in adult relations?

## Tampa Bay Harvest

**Food: the first kindness & the measure of our Hospitality.**  
**Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings.**  
Money is more effective than cans and boxes to get the most benefit to the greatest number of people. But we can also use personal toiletries.  
Thanks to *Jordan Williams*. **We need volunteers!** Write to [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com) Thanx.



For the young growing up in such ferment, and with little to guide them or us, the consequences of faults in openness, honesty, and communications can be serious. Can we find a common ground? Can Humanism offer a way to bring forth equity and life satisfaction as society goes forward?  
JP

An open community discussion.

**Please  
Join us in:**



**The Dunedin Public Library** at  
223 Douglas Ave. in  
Dunedin. ([map](#))

**Saturday, Oct. 6  
at 2:00 PM**

Many of our members meet afterward for more conversation and refreshment not far from the library.



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

### Annual Dues



Regular -\$25  
Reg. Couple -\$30.  
Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin above)  
Life -\$200. (Pin)  
Life Couple -\$250. (Pin)  
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,  
[marios\\_psomas@hotmail.com](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com)*

*If new, please fill out the form; 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:

**“Marios Psomas”**

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

Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA  
1013 Connecticut Rd  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

\*= optional

### List of Fake News Websites:

Before you get too excited about an item you want to share or comment about, make sure the social media item is legit.

**The list:**

<http://bit.ly/2vvrXbb>





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

## What is the Humanist Way?

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

## The Movable Feast

the Humanist Society's monthly social Dinner

Join us Oct. 21 at Applebee's at 5 O'clock for American style cooking, and decidedly the best company:

# Applebees

For [map](#) [Menu](#)

5110 E Bay Dr, Largo, FL 33771

Phone: (727) 539-6388

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

## Laugh Lines Theses from the Young 10-18

In medieval times people were alliterate. The greatest writer was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verses and literature. During this time, people put on morality plays about ghosts, goblins, virgins, and other mythical creatures.

The Renaissance was an age in which more individuals felt the value of their life.

Martin Luther was nailed to the church door for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by a bull.

It was painter Donatello's interest in the female nude that made him the father of the Renaissance. It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of the blood. And Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

Shakespeare was the greatest writer. In one of his plays, Hamlet rations out his situation by relieving himself in a long soliloquy.

Then came the enlightenment. Voltaire invented electricity and also wrote a book called Candy. Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in autumn, when the apples are falling off trees.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between, he practiced on an old spinster. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English.

Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and Inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and began reproducing by machine.

The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers. Then came the First World War, which ushered in a new error in the annals of human history.

## 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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**Steve Brown,**  
**Lois Fries,** Secretary  
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**Brad Perryman** Vice Pres.  
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~\*~\*~\*~\*

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

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

## Need Psychological Counseling?

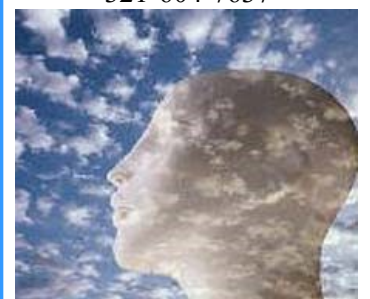
For a secular therapist, click:

[Secular Therapy Org.](http://seculartherapy.org)  
[Cognitive Neurosciences](http://cognitive-neurosciences.org)

### Or call:

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

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



## Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

### North Tampa Public Library

8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)

October 20th, 11 AM

Leaders: **Lucas Hopegood & Jim Peterson**

Member, TBCoR,  
Hum Society, &  
AHA affiliate.

### Topic: How would Otherworldly Aliens view Human Society?

Who are we, absurd specks in the cosmic scheme of things, to arrogantly assume that we as individuals, or a society really matter. We will discuss.

*As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above and within the level of conscious recognition. Using the instruments of reason, & critical thinking, we strive to be at one in understanding both the world that made us, and the one we are inventing.*

*Each month a new investigation thoughtfully & critically dissects a novel intersection of mind and matter. Be part of it.*

*At present, we are a small, intimate group meeting in a neighborhood library. But we are ambitious, and hope to grow. Ideally, such small discussion groups should appear in every neighborhood. The need is as great as the potential. What is required is a few longtime humanists willing to take on the relatively small effort to secure a library meeting room once a month, post a few notices here and there (including this newsletter), and show up to lead a discussion, share a little knowledge; give something to the future.* JP Learn more about the association at: <http://tampahumanist.com/>



It's hard to quarrel with that ancient justification of the free press: "America's right to know." It seems almost cruel to ask, ingenuously, "America's right to know what, please? Science? Mathematics? Economics? Foreign languages?"

None of those things, of course. In fact, one might well suppose that the popular feeling is that Americans are a lot better off without any of that tripe.

There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge."

📖 *Newsweek*: "A Cult of Ignorance" by Isaac Asimov, January 21, 1980



Great news! The American Humanist Association has worked with Senators James Lankford (R-OK) and Chris Coons (D-DE) to introduce a resolution which calls for **the repeal of blasphemy laws** worldwide. This resolution, S. Res. 647 encourages the President and the State Department to make the worldwide repeal of these laws a priority, while also opposing any attempts at the United Nations to support blasphemy laws. In many countries, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, nontheists, and other religious minorities are imprisoned, tortured, sentenced to death, and executed for blasphemy offenses. This resolution urges countries that still maintain such laws to repeal them and free the prisoners who were imprisoned for "blaspheming". Now that this resolution has been introduced, we need your help to ensure that it gets enough co-sponsors to pass Congress and be sent to the President's desk. [Can you take a moment right now to ask your Senators to co-sponsor S. Res. 647?](#)

In today's bitterly divided political climate, it's important to note that both Republicans and Democrats are supporting this legislation. That's because the issue of religious freedom is something that all Americans can support.

## Humanist Quotes

10/18

"Theirs was the snot-nosed, sticky-fingered world of peanut butter sandwiches and cartoons, playgrounds and superhero pajamas, crayons and pop-up books, booster chairs and midday naps. Their world existed no farther than the reach of their tiny arms. They were new. Innocent. Vulnerable. Yet they were somehow able to take personal and public responsibility for a hard-wired sin nature, implored to pledge allegiance to an invisible overlord they could not see, and charged to prevent their own torture in a nasty, horrible place that the Vacation Bible School teachers called Hell."

— **Seth Andrews**, [Deconverted: a Journey from Religion to Reason](#)







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

## DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Comparing WWII to climate change, we should first acknowledge that once again, the issue is not the evidence of the threat. That is clear and accepted – in fact with hindsight it will be seen as blindingly obvious. What is relatively new is that scientists and experts are increasingly acknowledging that nothing less than a massive global mobilization on a WWII scale is required to address the catastrophic risks posed.

Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, head of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, and a senior advisor to Pope Francis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the European Union recently argued that “Climate change is now reaching the end-game, where very soon humanity must choose between taking unprecedented action, or accepting that it has been left too late and bear the consequences.”

All around us examples of what these consequences might be are increasingly tangible. Whether it be wild fires in northern Sweden, refugee crises, extreme ice melt in the Arctic, submerged airports in Japan or severe droughts, people are feeling climate change live.

My key argument is that this process – identified threats, resistance and avoidance, stronger and stronger evidence, acceptance of crisis and then dramatic response – is pretty much how these things always unfold. And so it will most likely be on climate change.

Many argue we need a Churchill to lead us, that only a strong leader can take charge in a crisis and show us the way forward. Or maybe we need a climate “Pearl Harbor” – a major single event. This is not how systems usually change, but especially not in a globalized and connected world. Yes, we need leadership and across all sections of society. But the “Churchill's” emerge from a context and the context shift we need is to accept we have a crisis. Critically, this acceptance is a distributed social phenomenon, not a technical question of science or evidence.

This brings me back to Darebin in Melbourne. This local council looked rationally at what the science told them – that we face a crisis and the only logical response is to declare a climate emergency. And so they did. In consultation with their community, they then developed the [Darebin Climate Emergency Plan](#).

Why is this significant? Because *this* is how systems change. Ideas take hold and spread. Darebin has since been followed in the US with a small but growing list of elected bodies in regions and cities also declaring a climate emergency. First came Montgomery County, Maryland, since joined by Richmond, Berkeley and Los Angeles in California, and Hoboken, New Jersey. This is not emerging spontaneously, but through active organizing by groups dedicated to the task like The Climate Mobilization.

Yes, it's frustrating that these things take time. Therefore, knowing we can still “win” is key. Towards this end I co-wrote nearly 10 years ago a journal paper, *The One Degree War Plan*, with Professor Jorgen Randers, showing how achieving 1 degree of warming was surprisingly realistic with a WWII style mobilization. Recently along the same lines, The Climate Mobilization developed a “Victory Plan” to show what a WWII style economic mobilization across the USA could look like.

So on the surface, Darebin Council inviting a group of experts like myself to suburban Melbourne to discuss what a climate emergency means might not seem much. But it is a crucial part of a process whereby we first normalize the idea that we face an existential crisis. Next we will come to accept that the only rational response is a WWII-like economic mobilization to eliminate global net carbon dioxide emissions within a decade or so.

Find this hard to imagine? It is. But as we learnt from Churchill in 1940, when we shift our thinking to “what is necessary”, what we can achieve is quite extraordinary. Or as Nelson Mandela said: “It always seems impossible, until it's done.”

Paul Gilding  [post carbon institute](#)



### 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. For additional information send your emails to: [spaceaminer@gmail.com](mailto:spaceaminer@gmail.com)

**Meetings** are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November & December when it is on the third Friday) at the St. Petersburg College/Gibbs Campus, 6605 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710, at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)

### M.A.R.S. – Tampa Astronomy Club

Welcome 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/>



The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, & humanist values. Since 2002, our all-volunteer chapter has served West Central Florida. Won't you support us? [Join our community today.](#)



Rick O'Keefe,  
Coordinator

### Some of October's activities are:

- CFI SHARE Book Club
- Thank Goodness 4 Godless Friday Nights
- CFI Sunday Skeptics Brunch
- Tampa Bay Tech Center many activities
- Brandon Lecture & Lunch
- Howard's Skeptics Corner–Oct. 4
- 2+ astronomy clubs' meetings
- N. Pinellas CFI Supper Club

And more at <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l>

Subscribe to our CFI Tampa Bay newsletter here: <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l>, Then scroll down the page until you see the red section with "Receive E-Mails".

Christian Reconstructionism can be defined by four interconnected ideas:

1. Christians have a complete system of right knowledge about the universe (or "worldview"), which cultivates epistemological dualism: "us" vs. "them."
2. Christians have the right and the role of legislating morality for all people everywhere.
3. Christianity and western culture are two sides of the same coin.
4. The ultimate calling of Christians is to dominate the earth.

*Do you like the Evangelical takeover of government and society? Are you ready to silently fall in line? Or will you support Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay with your membership or a donation?*

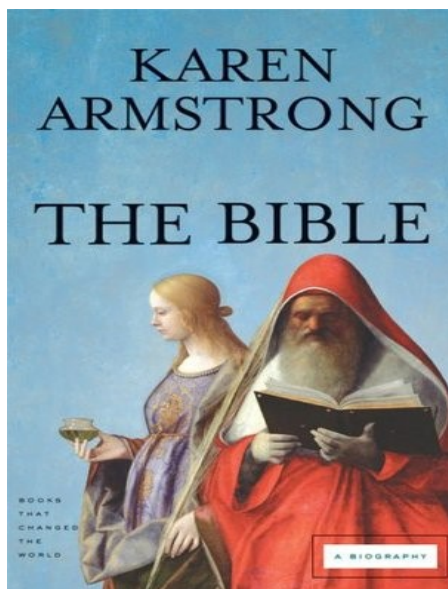
<http://bit.ly/2pTDfEj>



Science is the monthly publication of AAAS. A growing number of scientists are studying science itself. These "metaresearchers" are asking how researchers generate and test hypotheses; what they read, cite, and publish; and how they collaborate and network. Some hope that a better understanding of how science works will help address systemic problems such as biases and the inability to reproduce many studies.



The Bible has been transformed by translation and, through interpretation, has developed manifold meanings to various religions, denominations, and sects. In this seminal account, acclaimed historian Karen Armstrong discusses the conception, gestation, and life of history's most powerful book. Armstrong analyzes the social and political situation in which oral history turned into written scripture, how this all-pervasive scripture was collected into one work, and how it became accepted as Christianity's sacred text. She explores how scripture came to be read for information, and how, in the nineteenth century, historical criticism of the Bible caused greater fear than Darwinism. This is a brilliant, captivating book, crucial in an age of declining faith and rising fundamentalism. <http://bit.ly/2NYpHyH>



Did you lose your CFI membership card?

Find out: please send me an email so I can check for you. Include your current phone & address with ZIP, please. I'll look it up & get it replaced.

Cordially, Rick  
Email:

[bit.ly/2I9uaLr](mailto:bit.ly/2I9uaLr)



16  
years in  
Florida



Our New & Improved website:  
<https://CFITampaBay.org>.  
Please visit, then comment:  
what would you like to see?



*The Morning Heresy* is your **daily digest** of news and links relevant to the secular and skeptic communities. What you wouldn't otherwise know.



**Richard Dawkins  
Foundation  
for Reason & Science**  
A division of the Center for Inquiry

Founded in 2006, the foundation's mission is to realize Richard's vision to remove the influence of religion in science education and public policy, and eliminate the stigma that surrounds atheism and non-belief.

~ See the latest from Richard

~ See the latest News

**This should interest you:**

[We Must Trust Science or Die Like E.T.](#)

While we see no evidence for intelligent life anywhere, it's virtually certain that it has been there, somewhere, in the past. But why is there no evidence? Strangely, the election of Donald Trump to the Presidency of the United States, as a symptom of a growing global epidemic of reactionary conservatism, puts one sobering possibility into stark relief.



### CFI in Action: Secular Rescue

CFI is proud to operate [Secular Rescue](#), a program that has saved more than fifty-five secularists, atheists, and nonbelievers from persecution and violence. In many countries, expressions of nonbelief are punished by government repression, vigilante violence, or both. In April 2013, secular activist Avijit Roy requested CFI's assistance to oppose the imprisonment of four secular bloggers in Bangladesh who made statements critical of religion's role in government. CFI quickly organized efforts that contributed to their release.

Two years later, Roy was murdered by religious extremists. Soon after, CFI created Secular Rescue in response to the escalating danger to secularists in Bangladesh and other countries. Secular Rescue provides funding, advice, government liaison, and logistical support to assist nonbelievers in relocating to relative safety, which can often only be found outside their country of residence.

**Non-English speakers** don't have enough access to quality science content or information on secularism in their own language. In addition, many English speakers may be hard of hearing or may need subtitles. Our team of **translators** is changing that! We are transcribing and translating the videos on our [YouTube channel](#) in order to bring science and reason to viewers worldwide, in languages as diverse as Portuguese, Arabic, and Russian. If you want to become a translator, please [fill out this form](#) to join the **RDF Volunteer Corps**, and our volunteer coordinator will be in touch with you soon! <http://bit.ly/2xuhbBq>

Keep up on all current events at:

[www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason](http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason)

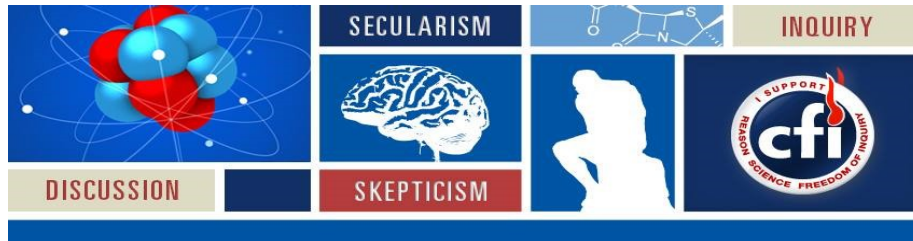
*BEING ALL-VOLUNTEER MEANS WE NEED VOLUNTEERS,  
MEMBERS, AND DONORS. MIGHT YOU BECOME ONE?*



Click below

**JOIN NOW**





October 19, 2018 – We invite you to celebrate **Openly Secular Day**, which serves as a call to action for those with a secular identity, by encouraging openness and dialogue around one's identity and beliefs. Some common secular identities include atheist, agnostic, secular humanist, freethinker, and secularist, though you are encouraged to identify however your beliefs are best described.

This year, we invite you to celebrate Openly Secular Day in two main ways:

1. By contacting your representatives to tell them you're a Secular Values Voter.
2. By engaging in interfaith activities that foster mutual understanding across religious and philosophical divides.

*Use #SecularValues to tell the world that you've contacted your representatives and to talk about secular values; Use #OpenlySecular for everything else Openly Secular Day!*

In billions of years: the oldest moon rocks date from about 3.49-4.5 y.o.; oldest meteorites 4.54-4.7 y.o.; oldest earth rocks 3.55-4.4 y.o. God seems to have come along a bit later. I prefer science over religion for revealing truth about our Universe. Religion makes an effective but false balm for fearful minds. In an emergency, do the truly faithful dial 1-800-ask-Godx. ROK

International Blasphemy Rights Day—September 30, 2018

**International Blasphemy Rights Day** is a day to show solidarity with those who challenge oppressive laws and social prohibitions against free expression, to support the right to challenge prevailing religious beliefs without fear of violence, arrest, or persecution.

International Blasphemy Rights Day is observed every September 30 to commemorate the publishing of the Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons, which angered religious believers around the world, many of whom expressed their disapproval with violent protests, riots, and in some cases, murder.

<http://bit.ly/2Od56Xx>  
<http://bit.ly/2xE1wzJ>

**CHURCH  
AND STATE**

**Pat Robertson: Non-Religious Children Should Be Beaten Until They Respect Christian Beliefs**

#### **Should It Be Illegal to Indoctrinate Kids With Religion?**

Religious child soldiers carrying AK-47s. Bullying anti-gay Jesus kids. Infant genital mutilation. Teenage suicide bombers. Child Hindu brides. No matter where you look, if adults are participating in dogmatic religions, then they are also pushing those same ideologies onto their kids.

#### **To Ensure a Future of Transhumanism, Atheists Should Confront the Deathist Culture Religion Has Sown**

Transhumanism technology could potentially double our lifetimes in the next 20-40 years through radical science like gene editing, [bionic organs](#), and stem cell therapy. Eventually, life extension technology like this will probably even wipe out death and aging altogether, damaging one of the most important philosophical tenets formal religion uses to convert people: the promise of being resurrected after you die. About [85 percent](#) of the world's population believes in life after death, and much of that population is perfectly okay with dying because ....

... Read the rest and much more news here: <http://bit.ly/2FQVO3t>

**READ THIS:** TB-CoR's **Meetup** makes it easy to **view & RSVP** to our activities & some affiliated events. The value to us of your joining our Meetup is that we need to know how many folks expect to attend an activity. Some programs are limited in seating; some require ordering books, etc.; some are open only to paid-up CFI members; & some require prepayment. So, sign up if you aren't already participating.





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

## What is Center for Inquiry?

*Why should you volunteer, join, or donate to our all-volunteer CFI Tampa Bay?*

Center for Inquiry (CFI) is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. Its mission is to foster a secular society based on reason, science, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values. CFI's vision is a world in which evidence, science, and compassion—rather than superstition, pseudoscience, or prejudice—guide public policy.

### What Does CFI Do?

CFI is a dynamic organization whose mission touches on a wide range of critical issues. Here are some of the ways that we advance our mission:

- ◆ We educate policymakers on legislation and policy that are relevant to our mission.
- ◆ We initiate strategic litigation and produce amicus briefs on important church-state separation and science cases.
- ◆ Our Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES) hosts workshops across the U.S. to provide tools for middle school teachers to effectively teach evolution and respond to its critics. TIES will host more than forty workshops in 2018.
- ◆ Our full-time professional librarian maintains a freethought library in Buffalo, New York, with more than 72,000 items, including rare books and periodicals held nowhere else in the world.
- ◆ We publish two bimonthly magazines: *Free Inquiry*, a journal of secular humanist thought, and *Skeptical Inquirer*, the magazine for science and reason, with a combined total of more than 26,100 subscribers.
- ◆ We operate the Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum in New York's Finger Lakes region to honor the legacy of late nineteenth century America's foremost orator, political speechmaker, and champion of freethought.
- ◆ Our regional branches host dozens of events, briefings, and demonstrations across the country.
- ◆ We train and support secular celebrants to perform weddings, memorials, and other ceremonies that mark life's great milestones.
- ◆ We support and protect the rights of nonbelievers and religiously unaffiliated individuals in the United States and around the world.

### Why Does CFI Advocate for Science and Secular Values?

While it may not seem obvious that evidence and compassion have anything to do with each other, CFI believes that these values are deeply interdependent.

CFI believes that government best serves its citizens when public policy is rooted in evidence: objective facts that individuals can confirm without reference to their personal experience. Personal experience can be informative and valuable, but to ensure that policy broadly improves human welfare and respects the rights of every individual, our policy proposals should appeal to evidence that can be confirmed even by those

who disagree with us on many issues.

Although science is imperfect in practice, the scientific method is the most useful tool ever discovered for developing a more accurate understanding of our world. In the last 400 years, the scientific revolution has led to an astonishing and unprecedented acceleration of human welfare—in health, security, longevity, freedom, opportunity, and knowledge. CFI honors this rich legacy of open inquiry by supporting policies that protect the integrity of scientific findings in law and policy from political or religious influence.

CFI prioritizes opposition to policies that harm individuals on the basis of disproven ideas. Ideas such as hostility to LGBTQ rights have historical roots in religious instructions that are not supported by evidence.

Other harmful policy ideas originate from contemporary pseudoscience. For example, many claims about “alternative medicine” are disproven by science. Possibly the most egregious of these is homeopathy, a billion-dollar industry based on the disproven eighteenth-century theory that when diluted to virtually nonexistent concentrations, toxic substances transfer invisible healing properties to ordinary water molecules. CFI has filed suit against CVS Health, the largest retail pharmacy chain in the United States, for fraudulently marketing homeopathic products in the District of Columbia.

### Why is Freedom of Religion Important to Nonbelievers?

Freedom of religion includes both the right to choose one's religion *and* the right to choose no religion at all. The Supreme Court has upheld this right in numerous decisions. For example, in *Welsh v. United States*, the Court ruled that the Constitution required that conscientious objector status be open to non-religious individuals as well as religious individuals. CFI collaborates with our interfaith partners to advance freedom of religion for all people, regardless of their faith or lack thereof.

<https://CFITampaBay.org>

<https://secure.centerforinquiry.net/tampa/donate>



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!](#)



## The Sneaky Way A Church Sells Illegal Medicine in the United States

By [Katie Paulson](#)

After publishing an article on Amazon's sales of **Miracle Mineral Solution**, we received an interesting tip that connects the Amazon products to Jim Humble. Jim Humble and his church **The Genesis II Church of Health and Healing** sell Miracle Mineral Solution or sodium chlorite. The church says sodium chlorite is *the miracle cure-all for all ailments and diseases*. The products are not legal for sale for internal consumption in the United States.

Read a technical medical summary [here](#). (It's not good.)  
Read the main article [here](#).

## Gallery Owner Uses "Gay Conversion Therapy" Sign to Resolve Church Parking Feud

By Hemant Mehta

In 2015, [River Pointe Church](#) bought space in Houston, Texas for a new branch. It also happened to be across the street from the [Hiram Butler Gallery](#), an art vendor. That wasn't a problem on its own, but church members have frequently been parking in four spaces reserved for the art gallery. No amount of discussion, Hiram Butler said, seemed to resolve the problem.

I guess the church didn't realize you shouldn't get into an argument with an artist, because Butler commissioned some art that should [solve the parking problem for good](#):



A sign outside the Hiram Butler Gallery reads, "Parking Only For Gay Conversion Therapy."

And just in case anyone thinks it's homophobic, there are also satirical bumper stickers telling people the conversion occurs in the *other* direction: For [artist Robert] Rosenberg, meanwhile, the sign and an accompanying line of pink bumper stickers, which read "*Follow me to the Blossom Gay Conversion Therapy Center, where we pray the straight away,*" should only be offensive to one contingent.

## Psychic Tells Trans Woman She Will Get Pregnant "Many" Times

By David G. McAfee | [NO SACRED COWS](#)

This so-called psychic was caught on video telling a transgender woman she would have 'many' pregnancies. [Read more.](#)

## 5 People Who Used Magic To Publicly Debunk Fraudsters

By Steven Assarian

When we watch a magician perform, part of the amazement comes from knowing it's a trick. We don't believe that he or she made an elephant vanish into thin air, but we marvel at the fact that they were able to make it *seem* that way.

Then there are fraudsters. Magicians hate fraudsters because they claim that their feats are real, and they take advantage (often financially) of people who really want to believe that they're talking to their dead mother. And when those magicians hit their breaking point with dirty con artists, the debunking is spectacular to watch.



The [Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](#) promotes science and scientific inquiry, critical thinking, science education, and the use of reason in examining important issues. It encourages the critical investigation of controversial or extraordinary claims from a responsible, scientific point of view and disseminates factual information about the results of such inquiries to the scientific community, the media, and the public.





## Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info

PAUL C. MCGLOSSON

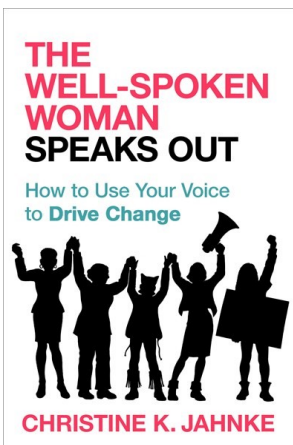


Sometimes theological ideas are good topics for ongoing debate. Other times, the community of faith needs to come to a decision: yes or no. Christian Reconstructionism offers the Christian church a basic approach to faith different from mainstream historic Christianity. Is their approach warranted? Or is it a fundamental distortion of the gospel?

The ultimate question is if Christian Reconstructionism is grounded in the Bible, or in a political ideology foreign to Scripture. An epilogue briefly points to a different way of seeing Christian involvement in contemporary, global society.

Practical and inspiring, this book is a valuable asset for women seeking to drive change with #MeToo, March for our Lives, Time's Up, Black Women Lead, Climate Action, She Should Run, Power to the Polls, and women's marches.

In her successful book *The Well-Spoken Woman*, top speech coach Christine K. Jahnke shared techniques to help women present their ideas effectively in any setting. This new follow-up is for women who are persisting, resisting, advocating, or running for office—and gives them the tools to be effective, persuasive, and powerful communicators.



This is the extraordinary true story of America's first female rocket scientist. Told by her son, it describes Mary Sherman Morgan's crucial contribution to launching America's first satellite and the author's labyrinthine journey to uncover his mother's lost legacy—one buried deep under a lifetime of secrets political, technological, and personal.

In 1938, a young German rocket enthusiast named Wernher von Braun had dreams of building a rocket that could fly him to the moon. In Ray, North Dakota, a young farm girl named Mary Sherman was attending high school. In an age when girls rarely dreamed of a career in science, Mary wanted to be a chemist. A decade later the dreams of these two disparate individuals would coalesce in ways neither could have imagined.



## The Matt Cooper

### Humanist Lending Library

Humanist Society members can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to [marios\\_psomas@hotmail.com](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com). Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

#### # TITLE AUTHOR

1. The Expanding Circle Peter Singer
2. In Gods we Trust Scott Atran
3. Why Evolution is True Jerry Coyne
4. The Second World Panag Khanna
5. Denialism Michael Specter
6. The Selfish Gene Richard Dawkins
7. Democracy Incorporated Sheldon Wolin
8. The Upside Irrationality Dan Ariely
9. The End of Growth Richard Heinberg
10. **The God Delusion Richard Dawkins**
11. All That We Share Jay Walljasper
12. Sex, Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14. What liberal Media Eric Alderman
15. The End of Faith Sam Harris
16. **Plan B Lester Brown**
17. The Portable Atheist Christopher Hitchens
18. Open Society George Soros
19. Non Believer Nation David Niose
20. God on Trial Peter Irons
21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond-Robinson
22. The Missionary Position Christopher Hitchens
23. Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff
24. **A brief History of Time Stephen Hawking**
25. Breaking the Spell Daniel Dennett
26. **The Philosophy of Humanism Corliss Lamont**
27. The Quotable Atheist Jack Huberman
28. 50 Reasons People Believe In G.G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics Alan Taylor
30. Stealing Elections John Fund
31. The God Virus Darrel Ray
32. What Every American Should Know About World Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven Editors of Free Inquiry
34. Hidden Order David Friedman
35. What the Dog Saw Malcom Gladwell
36. Sway Ori, Rom Brafman
37. The Better Angels of our Nature Steven Pinker
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian Christopher Hitchens
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded Thomas Friedman
40. Gaming the Vote William Poundstone
41. Subversion Fable Alexa KcKearing
43. Evolution and the Big Question David Stamos
44. **Why People Believe Weird Things Michael Shermer**
45. The World is Curved David Snick
46. The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
47. **The Moral Landscape Sam Harris**
48. **How We Believe Michael Shermer**
49. Full House Steven Jay Gould
50. The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
51. **Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov**
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain Harriet Smith, Editor
53. Science Friction Michael Shermer
54. Genius James Gleick
55. Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
56. Demon Haunted World Carl Sagan
57. Being Right Is Not Enough Paul Waldman
58. Loser Takes All Mark Crispin Miller
59. Taking Back Politics Cathy Allen
60. Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
63. **12 Vol Complete Works Robert Ingersoll**
64. On Religious Liberty Roger Williams & Davis
65. The God Makers Baker & Hunt
66. Inevitable Illusions M. Piatrelli-Palmarini
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
69. Bonk Mary Roach
70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
73. Best American Non required Reading Dave Eggers
74. Reporting at Wit's End St. Clair McKelway
75. Corporations are not People Clements
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president? Cragun – Phillips
77. Culture of Honor Nisbett – Cohen
78. Rot on the Vine Stenes
79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker New Kaye \* Essential works**
80. An Atheist Stranger by Herb Silverman
81. Candidate without a prayer- Herb Silverman

Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought paraphernalia:

<http://evolvefish.com/>

To access more Freethought history & perspectives,

**Frank Prah's Freethought Library**

[fpahl77@gmail.com](mailto:fpahl77@gmail.com)

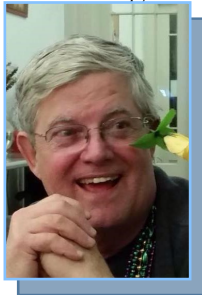


The mission of the [Secular Coalition for Florida](http://www.secularcoalition.org) is to increase the visibility of & respect for non-theistic view-points in the State, & to protect & strengthen the secular character of

our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

**Bill Norsworthy**, is our Florida representative.

Please sign up [here](http://www.secularcoalition.org). Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, & appreciated!



SC wants *you* to represent the voice of thousands of people of reason in the halls of power.

As our government undergoes its seemingly perpetual crises, the secular coalition is needed to remind citizens & officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots requires your involvement.

## St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: [easy8@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:easy8@tampabay.rr.com)

On the web: <http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

- \* Provide intellectual & emotional support to each other & to others in our community who share our philosophy.
- \* Foster humanistic moral values & ethical behaviors.
- \* Promote a naturalistic worldview wherein beliefs must be verified by a scientific examination of evidence.
- \* Defend the separation of church & state at all levels of government as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.
- \* "To Smell the Roses Along the Way"



AOF is joining with other FBB teams to collect funds to help the Foundation make grants to address the needs of the children separated from their parents.



## Help us

## Help Children

**Donate Now**

Go to

<http://bit.ly/AOFHelp>

## University of South Florida Humanities Institute

### • Frankenreads.

USF will participate in a global read-a-thon of the entire novel on Halloween. Oct. 31 8am - apx. 5pm.  
USF Bookstore Café

- ♦ Wicked Brews Book Club will be exploring misunderstood characters
- ♦ Both Humanities & Hops will feature topics drawn from *Frankenstein*
- ♦ Follow the Humanities Institute on social media to stay up to date on all events with our handle @USFHuman. This series was possible by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council

<http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities> Many previous lectures are available on YouTube.



**The Crafty Freethinker ...**  
Yorkshire lass born and bred, currently living in the Sunshine State. Maker of fine Secular Jewelry, and lifelong freethinker, my work can be seen by clicking on the image at the top.

**The Hotline Project**

**184-I-DOUBT-IT**

## Travel Now



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## UU Humanists of Clearwater

Usually every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12:30 to 1:30 pm, after UU services,

at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.



## A Humanist Discussion group in East Tampa !



## UU Humanists of Tampa

Public Discussion, 2nd Wednesday eve from 7-9 PM, & on the 4th Sunday Morning 9:45-10:45.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa



# Atheists of Florida,



Ed Golly, Chair - Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir.  
Al Hann, Vice chair,

See [AoF Meetup](#) for details Website: <http://aof.ngo>

AoF is a comfortable & safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, & make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus. For many people, atheism represents the most focused & powerful criticism of the philosophical world-view with which most of us were raised. It is liberating for the same reason it attracts the enmity of those who are committed to the closed & changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP



## The Atheist Forum



Fridays 2 to 3 pm.

The broadcast is available **on the internet** at [TanTalk1340.com](http://TanTalk1340.com), live streaming on smart phones using the "TuneIn" application, [www.youtube.com/atheistforum](http://www.youtube.com/atheistforum) and on the following frequencies in the Tampa Bay area – WTAN AM 1340, WZHR AM 1400, WDCF AM 1350, WTAN FM 106.1, and WZHR FM 104.3.

Listeners can call **727-441-3000**, where four lines await your call in of questions and comments. All programs are being archived on the AoF web site, [www.talk.aof.ngo](http://www.talk.aof.ngo).

Subscribe to our

**You Tube Channel**



Contact us: [info@atheistsoffloridainc.org](mailto:info@atheistsoffloridainc.org)



## October Events

[Find details by clicking here](#)

*meetup*

**Oct 7**  
Carrabba's  
Citrus Park  
5pm

**Oct 13**  
Parkside Café  
Pinellas Park  
3:30pm

**Oct 21**  
Thai Bay  
Largo 5 PM

**Oct 28**  
Bonefish  
Grill Brandon  
5pm

### Statement by Larry T. Decker, Executive Director of the Secular Coalition for America

"For more than 50 years, American Atheists has courageously fought to normalize atheism, defend the secular character of our government, and, by doing so, has helped advance the civil rights of all Americans.

To this day, American Atheists continues to be a pillar of the larger secular community, which is why we are thrilled by the news that **Nick Fish** has been chosen to serve as the next President American Atheists. During his tenure as the National Program Director, Nick Fish demonstrated his talent for communicating the bold and fearless mission of American Atheists, as well as the ability to organize activists around that mission to achieve impactful results.

Nick's enthusiasm, passion, and proven track record make me confident that he will excel in his new role as President of American Atheists. Nick is part of a new generation of leaders that will guide the secular movement forward and help us evolve to meet the challenges of America's rapidly changing political and cultural landscape. I am positive that, with him at the helm, American Atheists - and the secular movement as a whole - has a bright future."

\*\*\*\*\*

### All-in-One Printers For Sale: Meet the PIXMA MG3020

Print, Copy, Scan. Wireless, WIFI.  
Includes ink, power cable and  
optional USB cable.

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with cables. My price: **\$49**, Tx inc.

New, inc. factory Warranty. **Contact Joe Reinhardt at (727) 544-**

**0414, or Email: [wjr22@hotmail](mailto:wjr22@hotmail)** Proceeds help support AoF! (you can too!)



## If only More Atheists Robbed Banks by Aaron Lebaron (Special to the Freethought News)

So I'm sitting on my cell bunk, poring over a small stack of computer printouts for the stats to fact-check a book I'm writing, when a random, unrelated headline catches my eye. A Federal court, the headline proclaims, has granted humanists and other nontheist inmates the right to get together and discuss their views--a privilege long since reserved for those inmates who were members of a traditional religious congregation.

This may not sound like much, but for me, it was huge. After nearly a quarter century isolated from my fellow nontheists due to my incarceration--including three years in solitary and one in a CERESO in the Yucatan--I was eager to escape the echo chamber of my own mind. After decades watching from the sidelines as religiously affiliated inmates gather each week to share their views and celebrate their beliefs, I could hardly believe our chance had arrived.

That said, I couldn't pop the champagne cork just yet. As far as I could tell, no one around here was aware of the ruling. And if the theists knew, they weren't tellin'. So I figured it was up to me to spread the good news. After all, there couldn't be more than a dozen or so nontheists here. And all within a quarter mile radius. How hard could it be?

You see, in a prison yard environment, the lone nontheist tends to keep a low profile. They tend to go along to get along. And they often avoid taking firm positions involving politics or religion--or rather, the lack thereof. And they avoid saying things, such as the "A-word" (atheist) which might ruffle theist feathers. So when I ask them to put all that aside to form a nontheist group, I'm asking a lot.

Moreover, I should have known that the theist hordes were not about to sit back and allow us godless heathens to just waltz on in and upset their centuries-old chapel monopoly cart without a fight. What I could not have known is that in the time it would take us to decide on how we might go about spreading the good news about the court's decision, the news of us godless heathens' blasphemous designs to desecrate the Lord's sanctuary with our unholy presence had gone viral--ruffling many a theist feather along the way. And it didn't take long for the theists to strike back. First came the all-out charm offensive: Any inmate expressing interest in the literature Emily Newman from AHA sent us, or who was caught associating with me got the red carpet treatment. Nontheists--the theist dirt of a few weeks ago---spontaneously morphed into theist quasi-royalty and began enjoying the luxury of VIP status they had never experienced before. They, and I, were assured there was no need for a nontheist study group since we were all welcome to attend their (religious) services together with them. And they even promised not to hold our godless heathenism against us. It would fall on me to deliver the bad news to our gracious would-be hosts: Thanks...but no thanks. And that's when I became persona non grata.

As a result, to date, some two months after I first learned of the court's ruling, I guesstimate that fewer than 20% of the nontheist inmate population are even aware we now have equal rights to access the once exclusive theist domain. In fact, I still don't even know how many nontheists there are in the institution--so I have no way of determining whether there are enough of us to sustain a nontheist study group.

To be fair, however, I suspect my biggest obstacle to forming a nontheist study group may have nothing to do with theist shenanigans--or theist anything for that matter. I'd hate to be the bearer of bad news, but us nontheists may simply not have what it takes to sustain adequate representation among the inmate population. At the heart of the problem is our stubborn insistence on examining the facts before making life-altering decisions.

You see, someone who refuses to bet everything on the heartwarming and fuzzy, if unverifiable, promises of religion is unlikely to dispense with this fact verification habit in order to throw it all away in pursuit of the ephemeral lure of easy money from criminal activity. Besides, sustaining the criminal mindset requires a form of logic, or rather, a logic-leaping capacity, which the nontheist may lack. It requires a pair of de-facto rose-colored glasses with the capacity to deflect or filter out evidence of an avalanche of undesirable consequences sliding down the slope of life in one's direction.

This may go a long way toward explaining why some twenty of every one thousand Americans are atheists--yet as few as one in one thousand prison inmates self identify as atheist.

Why? There just aren't enough nontheists out there robbing banks and distributing controlled substances on the hazy notion that this is a rational means of acquiring cash. In other words, at the root of my troubles forming a prison nontheist group is that us nontheists just aren't filling prison cells for much the same reason we aren't filling the pews at that little white church down the street: We obstinately insist on inspecting drifting morsels we may encounter in the sea of life--no matter how tasty--for sharp, curved little objects tied to a string before we bite--or swallow--the bait.

As a result, while the theists claim the bragging rights to the numbers to sustain 31 separate study groups, involving some twenty different religions--including several numbering in the hundreds--us nontheists are relegated to scraping the bottom of the barrel in the hopes of cobbling together one small study group. The sad--or happy-- truth is that prison is likely to remain a lonely place for nontheists into the foreseeable future. So, okay, show of hands--any volunteers to rob a bank so as to help alleviate the chronic under-representation of nontheists in the prison population? No? You see what I mean? They just won't take the bait.

**AARON LEBARON** is an inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution at Bastrop, Texas. He is also an aspiring nontheist author in search of a nontheist writing mentor, collaborator, and/or nontheist mutual support network. He can be reached by email at [alebaron7079@emailinterface.org](mailto:alebaron7079@emailinterface.org)

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## Religious Liberty?

The Department of Justice is establishing a "religious liberty task force." The announcement follows remarks made by Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the Justice Department's religious liberty summit. In his speech, Sessions said; "In short, we have not only the freedom to worship--but the right to exercise our faith. The Constitution's protections don't end at the parish parking lot nor can our freedoms be confined to our basements. Religious Americans are no longer an afterthought."

"This is a religious privilege task force - plain and simple. According to Attorney General Sessions, this task force is going to take its marching orders from the Justice Department's [Memorandum on Religious Liberty](#). That Memorandum lays out the entire political agenda of the religious right and flips the entire notion of 'religious liberty' on its head by instructing federal agencies to treat religious belief as an incontestable get-out-of-jail-free card."

"If fully implemented, the Memorandum would give individuals, organizations, and for-profit corporations that claim a religious affiliation an exemption from a whole swath of federal, state, and local laws. When this Memorandum was announced, we called it a '[declaration of war](#)' against the LGBTQ community, women, nontheists, and religious minorities. The task force Sessions' announced today will be his foot soldiers in the war against the wall of separation between church and state."

The new effort seeks to funnel taxpayer money [directly to religious institutions](#)."

If you find this to be disturbing, proceed directly to

[www.secular.org](http://www.secular.org)



## Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008. **Carrollwood Cultural Center**, Tampa, every 2nd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.

**Monday, October 8, 2018**

**Topic: Issues and players on the Florida ballot in November**

See our Meetup site:

[www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/](http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/) for more info.

## 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*, & her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine*.



Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize & 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 & 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. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).

See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.



## USF Freethinkers

Join [Freethinkers@USF](mailto:Freethinkers@USF) for

genuine, conversational discourse & a communal atmosphere.

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:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/> for more information.

contact: [fadibitar@mail.usf](mailto:fadibitar@mail.usf)

**TB-CoR Welcomes**

## Ethical Humanism

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.

Organizer **Bart Worden** hopes to get a local Meetup group started soon. Watch these pages.



## Tampa Bay Technology Center & Thinkers Salon



**We repair our member's computers - Free!**

Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. Our new address is 2189 Cleveland Street, Suite 229, Clearwater FL 33765. [Map](#)

Check out [Thinker's Salon](#) a forum for serious social & scientific ideas & issues.

Find us at:

[www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org)

## The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers



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 members.

**Local Contact:** Chris  
([christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:christbrown@yahoo.com))  
MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:

**MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB**

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

We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason & its director, Sarah Levin.

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 groups identified with the secular / freethought / Humanist / Atheist movement.*

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

**Contact:** [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

Or see, <http://tampabaycor.org/>

Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>

## Civic Engagement?

For reason and democracy to succeed, we will need to rediscover the vital necessity of putting down our screens and keyboards and begin interacting with each other. Of course, you'll want to keep reading this newsletter even after you discover the many other human beings on the planet.

In an era when alienation and ennui continue to diminish the possibility of interpersonal relations, we must find ways to help ourselves and others reconnect. Its messy and difficult to be sure; getting along means surrendering some part of our autonomy. Every ad we see, and every show we watch and every novel we read, there is a seemingly pervasive theme of reassurance and uplift for our personal selves, even as the wellbeing of the polity is demeaned and denigrated.

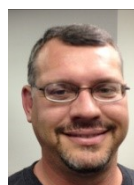
All this of course is perpetuated by an educational system dedicated to providing a context promoting a maximal optimization of self regard and esteem in an atmosphere free of disruptive reminders of the less than optimal world outside.

That outside may have some nasty surprises in store for us, as historical forces created by our own past mistakes begin to sully the rosy lives we have measured for ourselves.

We can't confront that which we do not understand. When there is no deference to history, there is no possibility of success in solving its problems.

**Below is a description of the University of South Florida's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement.**

- Build your knowledge, skills and confidence as a leader in order to achieve greater success in every area of your life.
- Explore current, relevant and global issues that will spark your engaged citizenship.
- Practice strategies for leading positive change, such as forming organizations, planning events, volunteering, fundraising, and creating awareness campaigns.
- Learn concepts and skills that will help you achieve greater success in every area of your life: interpersonal communication, goal-setting, conflict resolution, team-building, time management, ethics, critical thinking, project planning, and cutting edge leadership practices.
- Become more aware of issues that require your leadership and service: i.e. social justice, professional ethics, environment challenges, politics, education, healthcare, international relations, etc.
- Learn and practice effective strategies for creating positive change in your communities: Service, philanthropy, intergroup dialogue, peer education, organizational leadership.



### TBCoR Leadership Team 2018

Al Hann  
AoF

Bill Norsworthy,  
UUCH

Mark Brandt,  
UUCH

Chris Brown,  
MAF

Jenn Hancock,  
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## Do you vote-by-mail or are you considering voting-by-mail?

In our new report [Vote-By-Mail Ballots Cast in Florida](#), we found that vote-by-mail ballots cast in the 2012 and 2016 general election had a higher rejection rate than votes cast at assigned precincts on Election Day and at early voting sites. We also found that younger voters and racial and ethnic minority voters were much more likely to cast mail ballots that were rejected and were less likely to have their ballots cured.

[You should read our new report »](#)

We want to empower you with the tools you need to ensure your ballot counts. Find [step-by-step instructions on our website](#) that describe how to make sure your vote-by-mail ballot is counted.

We have consulted with County Supervisors of Election and state elections officials at the Department of State and are

urging the legislature and local election officials to establish<sup>17</sup> greater statewide uniformity in the procedures used to validate and cure rejected VBM ballots. [You can read our policy recommendations here.](#)

If you vote-by-mail, please take the extra steps necessary to ensure that your mail ballot is counted. And, share this email and our [downloadable one pager](#) with your friends, family, coworkers and neighbors who vote-by-mail.

Equal access to the ballot box is fundamental to a free and fair election. Take these steps to ensure that your vote-by-mail ballot is counted so your voice is heard on Election Day.

Sincerely, *Howard Simon*

Executive Director [ACLU of Florida](#)

## Get Your Shingle Shots Now!

The Food and Drug Administration in 2017 approved 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; It's much more effective. **Also, your Flu Shot!**

*Keeping up with Jennifer...*

## Thinking Freely Speaking Out



You may have heard the acronym VUCA before. It stands for volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. It's used in a business context to describe the reality of work. Which is that - things happen. If I have a professional relationship with someone – the thing that gets us through the volatility and ambiguity and to work through the complexity – is having clarity on what it is we are trying to accomplish. Who is responsible for what etc. To me – clarity is what helps makes getting through VUCA doable. It's what reduces my stress. To me, this is what professionalism is. It's about being professional enough to help increase clarity so that the team can deal with the volatility and complexity and ambiguity as a team. Let me give you an example of what lacking clarity leads to.

I get booked a lot to give talks. In order to give a talk - I need information.

Like - WHEN is this talk going to take place. WHERE is this talk and HOW am I going to get there. WHAT exactly do you want me to talk about? WHY do you want me to talk about it?

These are all reasonable questions and without answers to them - I can't give someone my time. When people book me - I expect clarity on these questions. When I don't get that clarify - I can't help anyone or participate in the meeting, or even if I do - I can't support the objectives of the meeting if I don't know what they are. Providing me with this information - so that I can do my job - despite the unknowns - is what it means to be professional.

When I get a contract, the first thing I do after winning a contract, is call the customer and ask questions and answer questions so that - there is clarity between us about expectations, roles, duties etc.

Things happen. A Professional works to make sure VUCA isn't going to negatively effect us – and if it does, that we have the trust we need to overcome it.

My courses are online at: <https://humanistlearning.com>

Thanks and take care. *Jennifer Hancock*



Monday, October 1--Dennis Maley, Political Columnist for the Bradenton Herald will present his perspective on the mid term elections and other political issues.

All lectures are at The Center for Arts and Humanity, 1226 N. Tamiami Trail, unless specified otherwise.



## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – October 2018 Calendar

This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when & where .... We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions.  
Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson. Your RSVP is requested, & often is required for admittance.  
See our Meetup site for more: [www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason](http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason)



|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Various Sunday, 2 PM; & Friday night                                    | BRANDON–CFI Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Night  | Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>  |    |
| TBA – various activities  | S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida, Inc.                            | Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup">http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup</a>   |    |
| TBA – various activities  | S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..                            | Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>   |    |
| 1st Saturday, 2 PM see Pg. 2<br>3rd Sunday -Dinner see Pg. 3.           | DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast                        | Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists">http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists</a>   |    |
| 3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM  | E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists                        | Details: <a href="http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists">http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists</a>  |    |
| TBA – various activities at MOSI  | E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI | Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi">http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi</a><br>Other events: <a href="http://bit.ly/MARS-home">http://bit.ly/MARS-home</a>  |    |
| TBA - numerous events— this semester                                    | E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF                         | See <b>Web site</b> for full listing of many events & calendar. <a href="http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities">http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities</a> Locations vary! <b>Page 11.</b>   |  |
| 4th Monday, 6 PM  | N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper                      | <b>RSVP is required.</b> Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI &amp; TBS paid members.</i> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>   |  |
| 3rd Saturday, 11 AM   | NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.                              | Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists">http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists</a>   |  |
| 4th Saturday, 10:30 AM;   | CLEARWATER – CFI Readers Book Discussion                      | Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. <b>RSVP is required. Must have read the book under discussion to attend.</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>   |  |
| 3rd Monday, 7 PM  | NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers                           | Lively discussions. <b>RSVP</b> here: <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers">http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers</a>   |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly. | ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club                                | For several dates, locations, & details: <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home</a><br><a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar</a> |  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday plus various other times/venues                | TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay                | Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>   |  |
| TBA – various activities  | TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families                           | <b>RSVP</b> here: Family outings & other activities. Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN">http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN</a>  |  |



## 2019 Freethought Cruise

Nassau-Cuba itinerary. For more details: [freethoughtcruise.com](http://freethoughtcruise.com). Departs Florida March, 2019

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