

# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason



# Freethought News

Vol. 8 No. 2, February, 2019  
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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\* TBCoR member

### Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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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)

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

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text for the link.



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## Ryan Cragun & Hemant Mehta

### A Conversation on **Darwin Day** Sat. Mar. 16th 10AM

Ryan T. Cragun (1976-) is a husband, father, and sociologist of religion (in order of importance). Originally from Utah, he now lives in Florida and works at the **University of Tampa**. His research and writing focuses on religion, with an emphasis on Mormonism and the nonreligious. His research has been published in a variety of academic journals, including: *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Nova Religio*, *Journal of Religion and Health*, and *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. When he's not working, he's spending time with his wife and son, watching science fiction, hiking, playing soccer, or tinkering with FOSS, Gnu/Linux, or computer hardware.

Hemant Mehta is the editor of *Friendly Atheist*, appears on the [Atheist Voice](#) channel on YouTube, and co-hosts the uniquely-named [Friendly Atheist Podcast](#). He is a former National Board Certified high school math teacher in the suburbs of Chicago, where he taught for seven years.

Hemant has appeared on CNN and FOX News (really). He has served on the board of directors for [Foundation Beyond Belief](#) (a charity organization targeting non-theistic donors) and the [Secular Student Alliance](#) (which supports college atheist groups nationwide).

He is the author of, *I Sold My Soul on EBay* and *The Young Atheist's Survival Guide*

Your best Letters...

## Freedom of, from Religion

Wednesday celebrates the anniversary of the 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the basis for our First Amendment. It is important for us to recognize that religious freedom has been, and continues to be, an important part of America's historical roots. Our founders knew what it meant to be ruled by a government that had an official religion and they soundly rejected that for the United States. Thomas Jefferson was adamant in his defense of religious freedom, which he regarded as the base of individual freedom, stating that "no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any

See this great program on Sat, Mar. 16th at 10 AM at the UU Octagon, 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater. Tickets \$20 at the door.

## Listen to Freethought Radio every Friday Afternoon at 2 PM

Atheists of Florida produces *Atheist Forum*, every week for information and opinion from a secular POV.

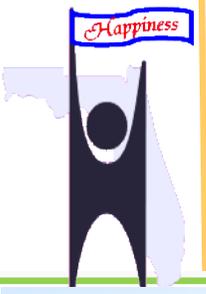
You will find a variety of subjects discussed, from atheism (of course) to science, politics, ethics, art and social culture. **Jan. 18th - Dan Barker, live!**

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 13 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 our channel at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) for more.

Continued on Page 4



# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast News

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

Vol. XXXII No. 2 February, 2019

*Tis the season to  
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>



## Important !

**Our meeting date is changing.** Beginning with this February, we will meet on the **Second Saturday** of each month. Please adjust your calendars and expectations accordingly.



**Please  
Join us in:**



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

**Saturday, Feb 9  
at 2:00 PM**

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



# Acts of the Legislature

*Judy Adkins* reviews some of the more provocative proposals pre-filed before the 2019 session begins.

These will be a source of wonder, great amusement, and not a little alarm.

Join us to consider how our lives might change if some of these ideas are actually adopted into law.



Ms Adkins is executive VP for the Atheists of Florida, and has been active in monitoring church - state issues for many years.

## 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 care toiletries. Thanks to *Jordan Williams*. **We need volunteers!** Write to [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com) Thanx.



*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 Feb. 17 at Applebee's at 5 O'clock for American style cuisine, and decidedly the best company:

# Applebees

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

5110 E Bay Dr Clearwater, FL  
33764

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

## Laugh Lines From the Ironic Dictionary <sup>2-19</sup>

LYMPH: To walk with a lisp.

MARTIAL ARTS: A family of Asiatic self-defense disciplines consisting largely of sweeping ornamental gestures of the arms and legs; amusing to look at but disappointingly ineffective when one's opponent is armed with a semi-automatic.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

MYTH: A female moth.

NEGLIGENT: Describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

NEIGHBORS: The strangers who live next door.

ORGASM: The punchline some women just don't get, generally because their mates have a tendency to rush through the joke.

OYSTER: A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

PARASITE: A base creature that extracts a living from the lives of others, like a tapeworm or a biographer.

POKEMON: Rastafarian proctologist.

PURITANISM: The haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be happy.

QUAGMIRE: Any situation more easily entered into than exited from; e.g., a guerrilla war, a bad marriage or a conversation with an insurance salesman.

RECTITUDE: The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

REDNECK: Popular term for a rustic male, but rarely employed when addressing one in person.

REDUNDANCY: Criminal Lawyer

## Humanist Society of the Suncoast

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc., Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason, & The Association of Secular Humanist Societies

### Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

*Jay Alexander,*  
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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?**  
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(727) 725-8820

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



## Free Speech Fairness Act?

Conservatives in Congress just reintroduced the deceptively-named Free Speech Fairness Act, which would greatly weaken the Johnson Amendment. The Johnson Amendment is the federal law which prohibits houses of worship and other organizations which receive tax-deductible donations from participating in elections.

If the Johnson Amendment is weakened churches could flood our electoral process with dark money and make elections even less transparent than they are now. And while we have been able to defeat previous attempts to either repeal or weaken the Johnson Amendment, we need your help right now to make sure that the Johnson Amendment isn't destroyed.

**Contact your Representative and Senators and tell them to oppose the Free Speech Fairness Act!**

The Religious Right is hoping that Americans won't take notice and stand up to their attempts to sneakily harm the Johnson Amendment, but I know that humanists are determined to protect the separation of church and state and a transparent elections process. **Tell Congress to reject this bad bill and support the Johnson Amendment!**

Thank you for protecting our elections and the separation between church and state.

Sincerely,




Roy Speckhardt  
Executive Director American Humanist Assoc.

Continued from page 1...

religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever" and that no man should suffer "on account of his religious opinions or belief." As an atheist, I adamantly defend the right of people to hold any religious views they wish, if it is not forced on others. A secular government protects everyone's freedom. Because thought is the foundation of choice, freedom of religion requires that freedom from religion also be protected.

Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir. Atheists of Florida 1-12-19

## Humanist Quotes

1/19

"The black, the white, the brown, the red, the yellow, the hetero, the homo, the trans, the poor, the rich, the literate, the illiterate, the weak, the strong – all are my sisters and brothers. My life is their life. And till the last breath in my body, I shall be serving you all with all the power in my veins. And beyond death, my ideas shall be serving you for eternity."

— *Abhijit Naskar*,

"I am an atheist, out and out. It took me a long time to say it. I've been an atheist for years and years, but somehow I felt it was intellectually unrespectable to say one was an atheist, because it assumed knowledge that one didn't have. Somehow, it was better to say one was a humanist or an agnostic. I finally decided that I'm a creature of emotion as well as of reason. Emotionally, I am an atheist. I don't have the evidence to prove that God doesn't exist, but I so strongly suspect he doesn't that I don't want to waste my time."

— *Isaac Asimov*

I think students should know something about religion as a historical phenomenon, in the same way that they should know something about socialism and humanism and the other great ideas that have shaped political philosophies and therefore the course of human events.

---*Steven Pinker*

## Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

**North Tampa Public Library**

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

February 16th Leader: *Jim Peterson*



Member, TBCoR,  
Hum Society, &  
AHA affiliate.

*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. ♪*

Learn more about the association at: <http://tampahumanist.com/>



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

**Sir David Attenborough** has warned that ...  
***“The Garden of Eden is no more”***,

as he urged political and business leaders from around the world to make a renewed push to tackle climate change before the damage is irreparable.

Speaking at the start of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, the 92-year-old naturalist and broadcaster warned that human activity has taken the world into a new era, threatening to undermine civilization.



“I am quite literally from another age,” Attenborough told an audience of business leaders, politicians and other delegates. “I was born during the Holocene – the 12,000 [year] period of climatic stability that allowed humans to settle, farm, and create civilisations.” That led to trade in ideas and goods, and made us the “globally connected species we are today”.

That stability allowed businesses to grow, nations to co-operate and people to share ideas, Attenborough explained, before warning somberly: “In the space of my lifetime, all that has changed.

“The Holocene has ended. The Garden of Eden is no more. We have changed the world so much that scientists say we are in a new geological age: the Anthropocene, the age of humans,” he declared.

In a stark warning to the world leaders and business chiefs flocking to the WEF this week, Attenborough warned that the only conditions that humans have known are changing fast.

“We need to move beyond guilt or blame, and get on with the practical tasks at hand.”

A survey conducted before the WEF found that environmental threats are now the biggest danger to the global economy, and concern is mounting that co-operation between countries on the issue is breaking down.

Attenborough admitted that even he has been surprised by the speed of the damage caused to the environment during his career making TV programs showing life on earth.

In response, Attenborough – recently voted Britain’s most trustworthy celebrity – said humans must use their expert problem-solving skills. “If people can truly understand what is at stake, I believe they will give permission for business and governments to get on with the practical solutions,” he told the WEF.

Get it right, he argued, and humans can create a world with clean air and water, unlimited energy and sustainable fish stocks, but only if decisive action is taken now.

“Over the next two years there will be United Nations decisions on climate change, sustainable development and a new deal for nature. Together these will form our species’ plan for a route through the Anthropocene.

“What we do now, and in the next few years, will profoundly affect the next few thousand years,” he added.

Speaking to journalists after his speech, Attenborough warned that economic models needed to change. “Growth is going to come to an end, either suddenly or in a controlled way,” he explained, citing the old joke that anyone who thinks you can have infinite growth in finite circumstances is “either a madman or an economist”.

*Continued on page 17*

## 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 February's activities are:

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

And more at <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I>

Subscribe to our CFI Tampa Bay newsletter here: <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I>, Then scroll down the page until you see the red section with "Receive E-Mails".

## Reasonable Talk

Captivating talks on science, humanism, skepticism, and other smart stuff. Find talks by topic, speaker, or event. Is this better than 24 hour Trump manure on "the news"? Yes! Is this better for your mental health than reality TV? Obviously! So, go here: <https://reasonabletalk.tv/>

**The Council for Secular Humanism:** The mission of the Council for Secular Humanism is to advocate and defend a nonreligious lifestance rooted in science, naturalistic philosophy, and humanist ethics and to serve and support adherents of that lifestance.

The Council is North America's leading organization for non-religious people. A not-for-profit educational corporation, the Council supports a wide range of activities to meet the needs of people who find meaning and value in life without looking to a religion. Its activities range from magazine publishing and campaign-ing on ethical issues to holding conferences and supporting a network of autonomous local groups.

Secular humanists reject supernatural and authoritarian beliefs. They affirm that we must take responsibility for our own lives and the communities and world in which we live. Secular humanism emphasizes reason and scientific inquiry, individual freedom and responsibility, human values and compassion, and the need for tolerance and cooperation.

CSH publishes the respected *Free Inquiry* magazine. The aim of *Free Inquiry* is to promote and nurture the good life—life guided by reason and science, freed from the dogmas of god and state, inspired by compassion for fellow humans, and driven by the ideals of human freedom, happiness, and understanding. *Free Inquiry* is dedicated to seeing that one day all members of the human family thrive by embracing basic humanist principles.

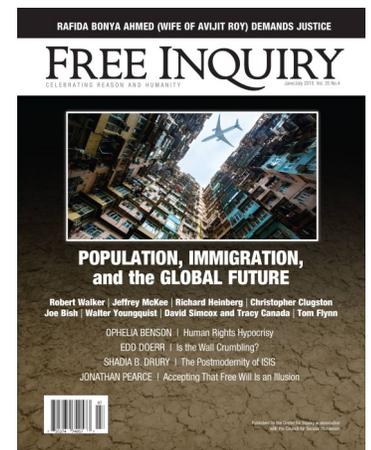


*The Morning Heresy* is your **daily digest** of news and links relevant to the secular and skeptic communities. What you wouldn't otherwise know.



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

- ♦ [Senator Says Push To Put 'In God We Trust' In Public Schools Isn't About Religion](#)
- ♦ [Supreme Court Allows Trump Restrictions On Transgender Troops In Military To Go Into Effect As Legal Battle Continues](#)
- ♦ [TEACHER INSTITUTE FOR EVOLUTIONARY SCIENCE \(TIES\)](#)—To provide middle school teachers the tools they need to effectively teach evolution.





**We are deeply concerned with the moral education of our children. We want to nourish reason and compassion. ~ Center for Inquiry--The Affirmations of Humanism: A Statement of Principles**

## Cheap and hostile is not the way to attract teachers in Florida

By John Romano, Published December 3

How unhappy are Florida teachers? Well, in Pinellas County they think it's more important to fight for classroom flexibility rather than getting a little closer to the national pay scale for teachers.

What is the issue in Pinellas County classrooms that have teachers unwilling to sign a union contract? The head of the teacher's association says pay is not the main problem - it is the working conditions imposed by various regulation. (Washington Post)

What is the issue in Pinellas County classrooms that have teachers unwilling to sign a union contract? The head of the teacher's association says pay is not the main problem - it is the working conditions imposed by various regulation. (Washington Post)

So teachers in Pinellas County are at somewhat of an impasse in contract negotiations.

For this type of news, the initial response is usually ho. Followed emphatically by hum.

It's true, this headline could not be less stunning. First of all, it's the nature of unions and management. It's also predictable in a state that views public schools as disdainfully as the politicians of Florida do.

So why fret about it this time?

Two reasons:

No. 1, this is not your typical salary dispute. The teachers are not raising a stink about a proposed 2.55 percent pay bump. While teachers have walked off the job in states across the nation this year to protest dwindling paychecks, the union in Pinellas is more concerned about bureaucratic demands.

No. 2, this is only nominally about teachers. At its heart, this dispute has more to do with you, your children and the neighborhood schools your taxes support.

What's really at issue is classroom autonomy.

For the better part of two decades, the know-it-alls in Tallahassee have made a crusade out of reforming schools. They've changed curriculum — repeatedly. They've demanded more standardized tests — and then demanded fewer. They've made a battle cry out of freedom and

innovation at charter schools while at the same time handcuffing the great majority of public schools.

The result is they've made schools less appealing to parents.

And they've made the job less appealing to teachers.

“Just let teachers teach. It's the reason they get in the business. No one becomes a teacher because they have any illusion about getting rich,” said Mike Gandolfo, president of the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association. “The problem is they've taken all of the joy out of teaching. All (teachers) are being trained to do is teach what's on the tests, teach what's going to raise the school's test numbers.

“How about teaching kids what they need to get along in life? A kid can raise his hand and ask a perfectly legitimate question about the subject, but if it's not covered on the test the teacher isn't given the time to veer off in any other direction.”

Although his teachers' association is at odds with the county concerning bureaucracy, time demands and other work conditions, Gandolfo says Pinellas has generally been better than most districts.

It's the blind adherence to Tallahassee's mandates that is causing problems. And those difficulties are not likely to get better anytime soon.

Former House Speaker Richard Corcoran, who has championed a bevy of misguided reforms, is expected to be named the state's new education commissioner.

And incoming House Speaker Jose Oliva recently named Rep. Jennifer Sullivan, R-Mount Dora, to chair the chamber's education committee. As the Orlando Sentinel recently pointed out, Sullivan is a home-schooled, 27-year-old who has no degree and appears to have barely attended any college classes.

What qualifies her for one of the most powerful positions in state education?

Oh, I'm guessing the fact that she will do whatever party leadership tells her to do when it comes to diverting education funds into the hands of private operators.

Look, you have no obligation to empathize with teachers in this contract dispute in Pinellas County. They chose this profession, and they are free to leave if they no longer enjoy it.

But here's what you might care about:

There are more and more teacher vacancies, and that means classes are getting larger and larger. Experienced teachers have had enough, and there is no stampede of applicants to replace them.

When you look at it that way, the problem doesn't seem so ho-hum.

Contact John Romano at [jromano@tampabay.com](mailto:jromano@tampabay.com). Follow on Twitter at [@romano\\_btmes](https://twitter.com/romano_btmes). The article: <http://bit.ly/2rJwPWc>

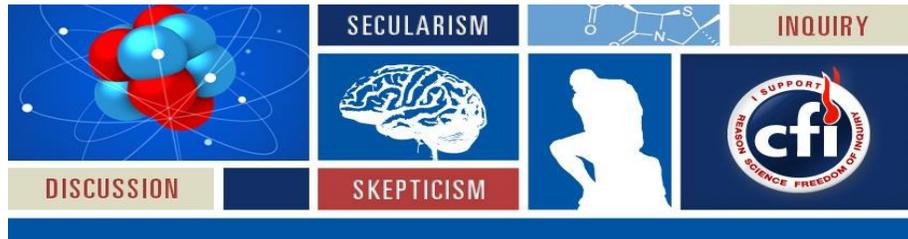
As people become more intelligent, they care less for preachers and more for teachers. ~ Robert Green Ingersoll

Being all-volunteer means CFI needs volunteers, members, & donors.  
Might you become one?



Click below

**JOIN NOW**



### Special freethought days in February:

◇ Darwin Day – Feb. 12

Future books for the **CFI S.H.A.R.E. Book Club**. Provided so attendees can be prepared, as required. (*Requirements:* Must be a paid-up member of CFI, and must have read the book before attending. Not a member? Join: <http://bit.ly/2pTDfEj> )

2/9

*Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business* by Neil Postman <https://amzn.to/2MxMpy0>

3/23

*The Gulf: The Making of An American Sea* by Jack E. Davis <https://amzn.to/2UbZFe0>

4/27

*Black Rednecks and White Liberals* by Thomas Sowell <https://amzn.to/2FWbwci>

### Dropping Deuces With Divine Healing Powers

Paul Fidalgo, *The Morning Heresy*

The Supreme Court declined to hear the case of a high school football coach who really, really, really insisted that there be public praying on the football field. That's good, but then [Justice Alito wrote this spooky statement](#) that Ian Millhiser says indicates that the conservative justices are "eager to immunize Christian conservatives from much of the law." Which I think we knew.

Millhiser writes:

"And just in case there is any doubt, the Court's majority has made it quite clear that their extreme solicitude for conservative Christians does not extend to other faiths. ... It is very likely, in other words, that the Supreme Court is poised to create a world with two different codes of law — one set for people like Coach Kennedy and another set for everyone else. The Court's majority is just waiting for the right opportunity to do so."

## CHURCH AND STATE

### Margaret Sanger: Her Life in Her Words

"The nations of the world are keenly aware of their individual population problems; they are generally cognizant of the population problems of their near neighbors and all distant countries. It is known that the question of population growth holds possibilities of menace to the future of civilization, and yet the world population problem is one of the few great issues of today that have not been the subject of concerted international action."

Those articles are all here, and much more news: <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.

## Secularism And The True Meaning Of Religious Freedom

By [Nicholas Little](#), January 18, 2019

On January 16th we marked National Religious Freedom Day, a day when we see articles and TV talking heads from the religious right claiming that there is an attack on Christianity in this country, and using the opportunity to call for more state funding of their churches, and further special exemptions from the law for religious causes. But it is also a day that is important to the secular community, and one which we should seize as an opportunity to publicize the truth – that religious freedom as a value is one central to non-religious people, and one which must not be perverted and corrupted by those seeking to impose their religious views on the nation.

So why is religious freedom so important to the secular community? We should look first at the choice of today for this celebration. In 1786, on January 16, the Virginia General Assembly adopted Thomas Jefferson’s seminal Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. This landmark legislation guaranteed religious freedom for all, believers and non-believers, and was the precursor for the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Freedom is an inherently good thing. For internal matters such as religious belief, the government should have no role to play in mandating or promoting a particular view. As Jefferson himself said, “[I]t does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg.”

The Founding Fathers, including both Jefferson and Madison, were well versed in the dangers of societies that restricted religious freedom. They were well aware of the history of Europe, and the devastation caused by the religiously motivated Thirty Years War that had recently engulfed the continent, causing over 8 million deaths. As such, when they put forward the First Amendment to the constitution, they enshrined both freedom of religion as well as complete government non-involvement in religion.

Where such a separation of church and state does not exist, the consequences are tragic. And very often it is non-believers who suffer the greatest consequences. The “crimes” of apostasy and blasphemy carry the death penalty in thirteen nations; in many others they carry prison sentences. Even where official government action is not taken against non-believers and atheists, religiously motivated mobs will deal out vigilante justice to those who dare speak against the majority religion. It was to help atheist bloggers and activists threatened by government and mob violence that CFI established its program [Secular Rescue](#). That such a program is needed, in so many parts of the world, stands in stark testimony for the critical importance of religious freedom to the secular community.

So we celebrate and defend religious freedom. But the value that we support is true religious freedom, not the corruption of it put forward by the religious right. We support, for all people, the freedom to believe or not to believe; the freedom to worship or not worship. But religious fundamentalists are not satisfied with that freedom. They instead maintain that religious freedom involves the freedom to act on those beliefs, regardless of the harm caused to others, and regardless of the laws of the land.

In the secular community, we will defend the right of all people to their beliefs, whether we share them or not. But we will not support religious faith being used to harm others, nor does the constitution require or even permit that. We support the right of an individual to view, however mistakenly, homosexuality as an abomination, but this does not extend to businesses refusing to obey civil rights laws and denying service to LGBTQ individuals. A person may see contraception as a sin, but that does not grant them the right to refuse to fill a valid prescription for birth control pills, nor for a company to refuse to provide the insurance coverage the law requires. A sick person has the right to refuse scientific treatment, and instead to pray for recovery; where they refuse effective treatment to their children, however, it is not religious freedom but instead child abuse.

We in the secular community cherish religious freedom, and celebrate National Religious Freedom Day. We cherish the right to believe or not to believe; the right to worship or not worship. We defend those rights for all, free from government interference or influence. But religious freedom is a shield from government oppression, not a sword with which to restrict the rights and freedoms of others. Freedom of religion necessarily entails the right to freedom from religion. An America where people have true religious freedom is not only one where government neither endorses nor opposes any individual religion, but also one where the government neither endorses nor opposes the concept of religion over non-religion.

**Nick Little** is the Legal Director of the Center for Inquiry, based out of Washington, D.C. After his education at Oxford University and the University of Warwick in the U.K., Nick moved to the United States and received a law degree from Vanderbilt University. He joined the firm of Howrey, LLP and litigated national and international antitrust matters, as well as a series of pro bono engagements. Nick successfully represented an apostate from the Middle East, who faced deportation to and execution in his native Sudan for the crime of converting away from Islam, winning him asylum in the United States. He also worked with mentally ill New Yorkers to ensure adequate provision of state resources enabling patients to leave institutions and safely and productively live in the community; represented hearing disabled citizens in their efforts to ensure local hospitals provided sign language interpreters as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act; and represented individuals in complaints of malpractice against the D.C. Metropolitan Police. When his firm closed, Nick moved to the non-profit sector and accepted a position with CFI. Aside from internal legal work for CFI, Nick has filed amicus briefs in the Hobby Lobby Supreme Court case and the Seventh Circuit challenge to unfair tax breaks given to housing allowances paid to religious ministers. Nick is always seeking cases in which CFI can involve itself, either as an amicus in an existing matter, or directly representing a plaintiff.



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!](#)



Within recorded history, humans have caused a severe loss of the environment and the number of diversity of species. Humans are rapidly destroying the ecosystem—beyond our understanding, capacity to reverse, and our will to act. "As long as I'm comfortable, screw the rest." & "Someone should do something." ~ROK

### The Insect Apocalypse Is Here

What does it mean for the rest of life on Earth?

Sune Boye Riis was on a bike ride with his youngest son, enjoying the sun slanting over the fields and woodlands near their home north of Copenhagen, when it suddenly occurred to him that something about the experience was amiss. Specifically, something was missing.

It was summer. He was out in the country, moving fast. But strangely, he wasn't eating any bugs.

For a moment, Riis was transported to his childhood on the Danish island of Lolland, in the Baltic Sea. Back then, summer bike rides meant closing his mouth to cruise through thick clouds of insects, but inevitably he swallowed some anyway. When his parents took him driving, he remembered, the car's windshield was frequently so smeared with insect carcasses that you almost couldn't see through it. But all that seemed distant now. He couldn't recall the last time he needed to wash bugs from his windshield; he even wondered, vaguely, whether car manufacturers had invented some fancy new coating to keep off insects. But this absence, he now realized with some alarm, seemed to be all around him. Where had all those insects gone? And when? And why hadn't he noticed?

*Click the title for the full article.*



### 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. *Click the magazine cover to subscribe.*



From the  
TBS  
Archives,  
2004:  
Believers,  
skeptics  
debate  
whether faith  
can really  
heal

Special thanks to Dr. Gary Posner for undertaking the arduous task of scanning many of the printed news articles about Tampa Bay Skeptics that have appeared in various newspapers and magazines since Guttenberg. Or, at least 1988. These efforts appear on our Web site here: <http://bit.ly/2E0F5tg>.

Some additional scans may be posted in the future. Many useful links appear at the bottom of the page here:

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

### THE TRAGEDY OF JAZMINE BARNES: PHANTOM SERIAL KILLERS AND EYEWITNESS ERRORS

by Benjamin Radford

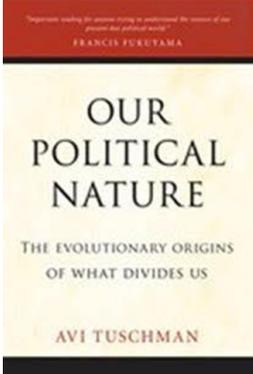
On December 30, 2018, a seven-year-old Houston girl named Jazmine Barnes was killed when a gunman drove up next to the vehicle she was in and opened fire on its occupants. Her mother, LaPorsha Washington, was wounded; Jazmine was struck in the head and died on the way to the hospital.

*The reaction by police and civilians is instructive.*

Get the Bank of Wisdom—*FREE*. Contact [Marios Psomas](#), Librarian

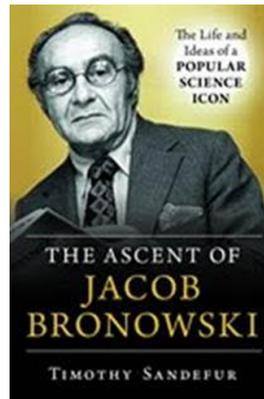
## Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info

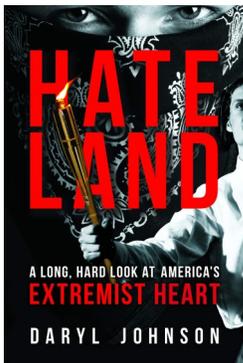


The first book to explore the natural history of political orientations. By blending serious research with relevant contemporary examples, *Our Political Nature* casts important light on the ideological clashes that so dangerously divide and imperil our world today. It shows how political orientations arise from three clusters of measurable personality traits that entail opposing attitudes toward tribalism, inequality, and differing perceptions of human nature. Together, these traits are by far the most powerful cause of left-right voting, even leading people to regularly vote against their economic interests. Our political personalities also influence our likely choice of a mate, and shape society's larger reproductive patterns.

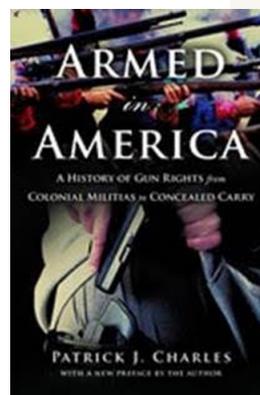
The first-ever biography of Jacob Bronowski—one of the leading science popularizers of his generation. Best remembered today for his blockbuster documentary series *The Ascent of Man*, Jacob Bronowski's interests and achievements are staggering. He revolutionized the study of William Blake, invented smokeless coal, and proved *Australopithecus africanus* was an ancestor of humans. He was a close friend of Leo Szilard (inventor of the atomic bomb) and William Empson (the prominent poet). He won the British equivalent of an Emmy for a radio play he wrote, sparked the "Two Cultures" controversy of the 1960s, led the mission sent to assess the effects of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and cofounded the Salk Institute for Biological Studies with Jonas Salk.



A chilling overview of the current threat from domestic terrorism by a former Department of Homeland Security analyst. America is a land in which extremism no longer lurks in the country's shadowy fringes, but comfortably exists in the national mainstream. Johnson dissects the rapidly expanding forms of American hatred and radicalization: white nationalists, anti-government militias, antifascists (Antifa), militant black nationalists, extremist Islamic groups. Extremists on the far right and the far left use the same techniques to recruit and radicalize individuals into violent offenders. He examines political forces that fuel this threat and have kept the US government from properly identifying and developing needed countermeasures.



This illuminating study traces the transformation of the right to arms from its inception in English and colonial American law to today's impassioned gun-control debate. As historian and legal scholar Patrick J. Charles shows, what the right to arms means to Americans, as well as what it legally protects, has changed drastically since its first appearance in the 1689 Declaration of Rights. *Armed in America* explores how and why the right to arms transformed at different points in history. The right was initially meant to serve as a parliamentary right of resistance, yet by the ratification of the Second Amendment in 1791 the right had become indispensably intertwined with civic republicanism. As the United States progressed into the 19th century the right continued to change—this time away from civic republicanism and towards the individual-right understanding that is known today, albeit with the important caveat that the right could be severely restricted by the government's police power. Throughout the 20th century this understanding of the right remained the predominant view. But working behind the scenes was the beginnings of the gun-rights movement ....



## 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
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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. Piattelli-Palmarini
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
69. Bonk Mary Roach
70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
73. Best American Non required Reading Dave Eagers
74. Reporting at Wit's End St. Clair McKelway
75. Corporations are not People Clements
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president? Cragun – Phillips
77. Culture of Honor Nisbett – Cohen
78. Rot on the Vine Stenes
79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker New Kaye \* Essential works**
80. An Atheist Stranger by Herb Silverman
81. Candidate without a prayer- Herb Silverman

Evolve Fish is a source for freethought paraphernalia:

<http://evolvefish.com/>

To access more Freethought history & perspectives,  
Frank Prahl's Freethought Library [fpahl77@gmail.com](mailto:fpahl77@gmail.com)



The mission of the [Secular Coalition for Florida](#) 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](#). 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"

**Next meet:** Parkside Café on 49th St. 11 AM,



**FOUNDATION  
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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

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Go to

<http://bit.ly/AOFHelp>

## UU Humanists of Clearwater

at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.

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



## University of South Florida Humanities Institute Cauldron of Culture in the Near West

With *James Allen Fromherz*



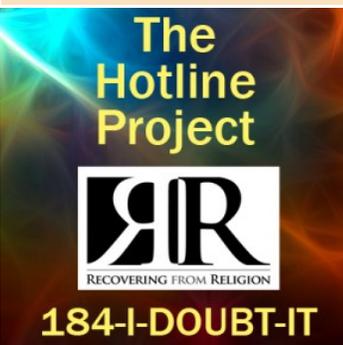
### On February 20th at 6 PM at Room CWY-206 USF

This talk will focus on the essential role that North Africa played in medieval Western Europe, particularly in the areas of commerce, slavery, mercenary activity, art and intellectual and religious debates. Fromherz's research draws on the personal biographies of remarkable Mediterranean travelers, scholars, rulers, and historians.



### 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 above.



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## 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.aof.ngo](http://www.aof.ngo). Tune in!

Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel**

**iTunes**

Listen on Google **Play Music**



## February Events

[Find details by clicking here](#)

*meetup*

Be sure to check for changes and RSVP!

**Feb 5th**

Invocation at Largo city hall 6 PM with Joe. R

**Feb 10th**

Potluck at Ed's solar house 1 pm

**Feb 17th**

Chilis Rest. Largo 5 PM See page 3 top.

**Feb 24th**

Yummy House, Tampa 5:PM

## What defines an atheist issue?

We are adopting these ideas by [American Atheists](#).

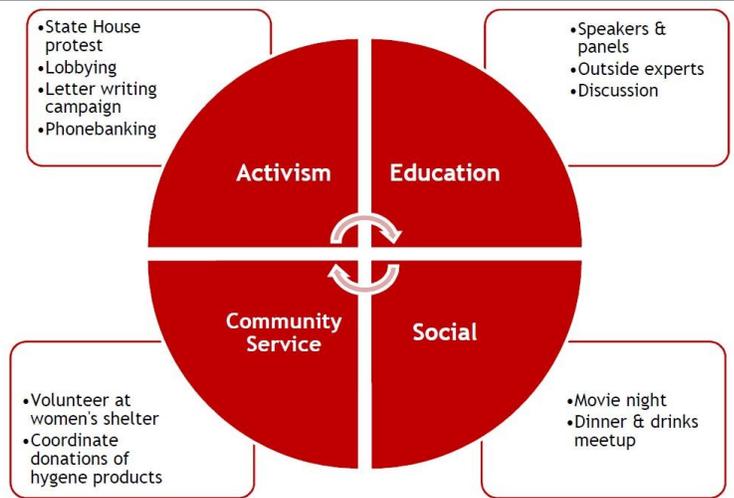
- Is a religion behind the issue?
- Is a religion trying to impose its belief on the public?
- If we had true separation of state and church would this issue go away?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then we have an atheist issue. Why does this matter? It broadens the definition of what is of concern to atheists. Once we heard these criteria, we realized our organization had been using these without ever formally making a decision to do so. Therefore we decided to formalize our definition to eliminate any confusion.

## What is an effective structure for an atheist organization?

We will have 4 committees:

What does this mean to our friends and members? This gives us a clearer direction on how to organize our activities, giving you a clearer idea of how to be involved with the organization.



## Why Do People Fall for Fake News?

*Are they blinded by their political passions? Or are they just intellectually lazy?*

What makes people susceptible to fake news and other forms of strategic misinformation? And what, if anything, can be done about it?

These questions have become more urgent in recent years, not least because of revelations about the Russian campaign to influence the 2016 United States presidential election by disseminating propaganda through social media platforms. In general, our political culture seems to be increasingly populated by people who espouse outlandish or demonstrably false claims that often align with their political ideology.

The good news is that psychologists and other social scientists are working hard to understand what prevents people from seeing through propaganda. The bad news is that there is not yet a consensus on the answer. Much of the debate among researchers falls into two opposing camps. One group claims that our ability to reason is hijacked by our partisan convictions: that is, we're prone to rationalization. The other group — to which the two of us belong — claims that the problem is that we often fail to exercise our critical faculties: that is, we're mentally lazy.

However, recent research suggests a silver lining to the dispute: Both camps appear to be capturing an aspect of the problem. Once we understand how much of the problem is a result of rationalization and how much a result of laziness, and as we learn more about which factor plays a role in what types of situations, we'll be better able to design policy solutions to help combat the problem.

The rationalization camp, which has gained considerable prominence in recent years, is built around a set of theories contending that when it comes to politically charged issues, people use their intellectual abilities to persuade themselves to believe what they *want* to be true rather than attempting to actually discover the truth. According to this view, political passions essentially make people unreasonable, even — indeed, especially — if they tend to be good at reasoning in other contexts. (Roughly: The smarter you are, the better you are at rationalizing.)

Some of the most striking evidence used to support this position comes from [an influential 2012 study](#) in which the law professor Dan Kahan and his colleagues found that the degree of political polarization on the

issue of climate change was greater among people who scored higher on measures of science literacy and numerical ability than it was among those who scored lower on these tests. Apparently, more “analytical” Democrats were better able to convince themselves that climate change was a problem, while more “analytical” Republicans were better able to convince themselves that climate change was not a problem. Professor Kahan has found similar results in, for example, studies about gun control in which he experimentally manipulated the partisan slant of information that participants were asked to assess.

The implications here are profound: Reasoning can exacerbate the problem, not provide the solution, when it comes to partisan disputes over facts. Further evidence cited in support of this argument comes from [a 2010 study](#) by the political scientists Brendan Nyhan and Jason Reifler, who found that appending corrections to misleading claims in news articles can sometimes backfire: Not only did corrections fail to reduce misperceptions, but they also sometimes increased them. It seemed as if people who were ideologically inclined to believe a given falsehood worked so hard to come up with reasons that the correction was wrong that they came to believe the falsehood even more strongly.

But this “rationalization” account, though compelling in some contexts, does not strike us as the most natural or most common explanation of the human weakness for misinformation. We believe that people often just don't think critically enough about the information they encounter.

A great deal of research in cognitive psychology has shown that a little bit of reasoning goes a long way toward forming accurate beliefs. For example, people who think more analytically (those who are more likely to exercise their analytic skills and not just trust their “gut” response) are less superstitious, less likely to believe in conspiracy theories and less receptive to seemingly profound but actually empty assertions (like “Wholeness quiets infinite phenomena”). This body of evidence suggests that the main factor explaining the acceptance of fake news could be cognitive laziness, especially in the context of social media, where news items are often skimmed or merely glanced at.

Read the rest here: <https://nyti.ms/2MtQYcq>

## Tampa Bay Thinkers



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

**Monday, February 11, 2019**  
**Topic: Is Job Incompetence on the Rise? Why?**

See our Meetup site:

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

## 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**

## 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**.

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](mailto: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)

# Tampa Bay CoR

TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

## Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: groups that promote serious secular discussion & activity about important issues in our area & beyond.

Substantive & exciting new activities are now offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

Every year we sponsor events as Darwin Day in February, Solstice day in December, and other activities all year long.

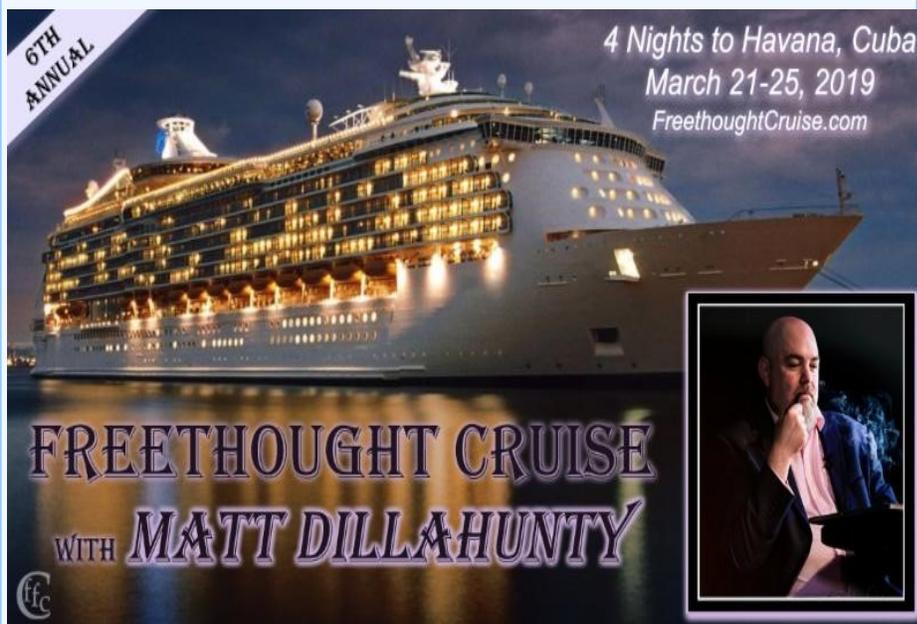
We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason & its director, Sarah Levin.

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/>



6TH ANNUAL

4 Nights to Havana, Cuba  
March 21-25, 2019  
FreethoughtCruise.com

FREETHOUGHT CRUISE  
WITH MATT DILLAHUNTY

**Mar 21-25, 2019**

**Freethought Cruise to Cuba with Matt Dillahunty**

Enjoy a cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas.

Two ports of call offer opportunities to enjoy the intrigue of Havana, Cuba and the culture and coastline of Nassau, Bahamas. Each night on board you can enjoy dinner as well as numerous entertainment options.

Refurbished in 2018, the ship boasts a rock climbing wall, original theater productions, Splashaway Bay for kids, outdoor movies and sports for the whole family, live bands and other musicians, Vegas-style casino. There are opportunities for entertainment or you can find a quiet place to sunbathe, read, or enjoy a philosophical discussion with your new freethinking friends. [RSVP on Meetup](#)

### CRUISE DETAILS

- From: Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- Ship: Majesty of the Seas, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line
- Dates: March 21st - 25th, 2019
- Ports of Call: Havana, Cuba and Nassau, Bahamas
- Itinerary and much more at [freethoughtcruise.com](http://freethoughtcruise.com)

Sponsored by *Central Florida Freethought Community*



Judy Adkins  
AoF



Bill Norsworthy,  
UUCH



Mark Brandt,  
UUCH



Chris Brown,  
MAF



Jenn Hancock,  
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,  
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Jim Peterson - Facilitator  
HSS, TBPC

### TBCoR Leadership Team 2019

Editorial E-Mail: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net) CoR Facilitator

Continued from *Garden of Edin*, Page 5

He is also hopeful that he can change hearts and minds during his trip to Davos, pointing out that some delegates have more power than a nation state. "The enormity of the problem has only just dawned on quite a lot of people ... Unless we sort ourselves out in the next decade or so we are dooming our children and our grandchildren to an appalling future."

Before he spoke, Attenborough received the Crystal award from the WEF for his work. Saudi Arabia's first female film-maker, Haifaa al-Mansour, and conductor Marin Alsop of the Baltimore Symphony were also honored for their work.



Evolve Fish is having a sale...



## Freethinkers in Sun City

FFRF Member Peter Bates holds a framed poster created by a group he co-founded, the Sun City Center Freethinkers of Florida. During the holiday season, two of the posters were hung in the largest community centers, the result of over a year's negotiation with the community association. The group convinced them that the current Christian display needed balance to reflect the community's diverse population. The poster promoted a secular message for the holidays. It was seen by several thousand people as they visited the two community centers.



Thanks to FFRF.org



**Saturday, February 16--Darwin Day Luncheon at Marina Jack--Members and invited guests. Matthew Bulgar, Legislative Director, American Humanist Association, will discuss Congress and Darwin, Separation of Church and State and the Status of Religious Freedom in the US.**

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

## Keeping up with Jennifer... Thinking Freely Speaking Out



### The right way to vent emotions

Dr. Leon Seltzer wrote a wonderful article about venting your emotions. Ways to do it so that you don't hurt others in the process.

Here is the link: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/evolution-the-self/201404/the-do-s-and-don-ts-emotional-ventilation>

What I like about his article is it is all about conscientiousness. You are considering how your behavior is affecting others and taking care to make sure you don't inadvertently cause harm to another person.



His advice - chose who to vent to carefully. Is this confidential - or not? What are your listener's limits? Don't overstep them.

Make it clear - you are venting and get their permission to vent to them before you start. They might be having a bad day themselves and not be capable of listening effectively in that moment.

Should you vent to the person who frustrated you? Well - one of the reasons to vent privately is to help let go of your frustration so that you can think rationally about what you want to accomplish.

What is the best tactic. How can you politely address the problem so they will listen. If you vent and attack - the likelihood of the person who frustrated you - listening - drops to close to zero. Venting to others can help you develop a strategy that might actually work to address the problem.

Do I succeed at this all the time? Nope. Do I need to take this advice from time to time? Yes. Recently - of course. Has the problem resolved? Nope. In fact, something happened today that was frustrating and unprofessional. But ... I am taking corrective action to minimize the problem while still responding in a professional way as much as possible.

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



## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – February 2019 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 Sundays, 2 PM; & Friday nights	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	TRI-COUNTY – Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup">http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup</a>	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>	
2nd Saturday, 2 PM see Pg. 2 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> <b>Now on the 2nd Saturday at 2 PM !</b>	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: <a href="http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists">http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists</a>	
TBA – various 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> 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	N TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & <b>RSVP: No program this month!</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists">http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists</a>	
Various Saturdays	NE CLEARWATER – CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to <i>10 paid-up CFI members.</i> <b>RSVP is required.</b> <b>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> <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar</a>	
Various Saturdays/Sundays plus various other times/ venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/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: P. [16](#) or, [www.freethoughtcruise.com](http://www.freethoughtcruise.com). Departs March 21.



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