



The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News



Vol. 8 No. 7, July, 2019

Jim Peterson, EiC, Rick O'Keefe, Judy Adkins, Editors

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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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Judy Adkins

Web site

Jim Peterson

Newsletter

Jim Peterson & Rick O'Keefe

Special Projects

Mark Brandt
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event websites at:

www.tampabaycor.net &
www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason

This publication online at:

www.tampabaycor.net

CoR News Special Events List available

With this month's issue, you will find a separate edition available with your publication notice. It will have abbreviated content and includes upcoming events and local notes.

We hope it will be handy.

Your editors



Medicare for All

An analysis published in late June by the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen shows that "rising enthusiasm for Medicare for All has prompted industry to increase its lobbying against the proposal dramatically," suggesting that powerful healthcare interests perceive the movement to replace the nation's for-profit system "as a politically viable threat."

Here is an issue that all social groups have a stake, and in which we should all participate.

As the contest for next year begins to warm, our groups should begin to play a leading role in the discussion. If it's not already on your agenda, consider putting it there.

The Editors



Rep. Jennifer Webb D of Florida House district 69 addresses the concerns of secular Americans at the Largo Public Library on Saturday, July 20th at 1 PM. Be there!

Late word! Rep Webb appearance Cancelled. Discussion goes on.

In an era when church/state relationships threaten to be overwhelmed by the partisan nature of our politics and the aggressive stance of religious fundamentalists, it is crucial that we understand what is happening..

Representative Webb has some important experiences and observations to share on what has become a crucial question of our time.

Tampa Bay's Original Humanist Hometown Hero was Lauded and awarded at the recent national conference of the American Ethical Union in Tampa.



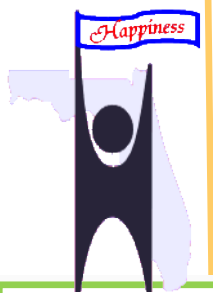
Dr. Edward Ericson

At 90, and with failing sight, the author of "The Humanist Way" provided a heroic and thoughtful vision to his enthusiastic audience. He urged his listeners to act on the urgent crises of our time.

Listen to Freethought Views and News

Atheists of Florida produces *Atheist Forum*, which is now on summer hiatus. It provides information and opinion from a secular POV. New editions of the program will be available on the **AoF channel of YouTube.com** from time to time. Regular programming to resume in the fall. See page 6 for more.

Anywhere in this newsletter
CLICK on an image or blue
text for the link.



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

American Nations:

A history of the 11 rival
regional cultures
of North America

Presented by Mike Kahn

An illuminating history of North America's eleven rival cultural regions that explodes the red state-blue state myth.

North America was settled by people with distinct religious, political, and ethnographic characteristics, creating regional cultures that have been at odds with one another ever since.

Subsequent immigrants didn't confront or assimilate into an "American" or "Canadian" culture, but rather into one of the eleven distinct regional ones that spread over the continent each staking out mutually exclusive territory.

In *American Nations*, Colin Woodard leads us on a journey through the history of our fractured continent, and the rivalries and alliances between its component nations, which conform to neither state nor international boundaries.



He illustrates and explains why "American" values vary sharply from one region to another. Woodard (author of *American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good*) reveals how intranational differences have played a pivotal role at every point in the continent's history, from the American Revolution and the Civil War to the tumultuous sixties and the "blue county/red county" maps of recent presidential elections.

American Nations is a revolutionary and revelatory take on America's myriad identities and how the conflicts between them have shaped our past and are molding our future.

"What country are you from?"

Please
Join us in:



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

Saturday, July 13th
at 2:00 PM

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

Vol. XXXII No. 7 July, 2019



Please Join or renew
Now!

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

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

Tampa Bay Harvest



Bring 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.

Many thanks to **Jordan Williams**. We need volunteers! See 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 July 21 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 Skeptics Dictionary

Dashing off a few Inventions from the pages...

INTER-NAT: A bug that slows up the orderly transfer of information.

THE-RAPY: What you have to take, when you get the sick.

WEEP-ON: A device for asserting your will through minimal threat.

MER-CHANT: Plaintive mantra of the telemarketer.

SUIT-OPIA: Lawyers paradise.

LAN-GAUGE: A measure of the effectiveness of words.

FORE-PLOY: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of obtaining sex.

FORTISSI-MOE: The musical moment produced when someone serially slaps the faces of the first-violin section.

T-ATYR: A lecherous Mr. Potato Head.

DOLTERGEIST: A spirit that decides to haunt someplace stupid, such as your septic tank.

GIRAFF-ITI: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high, such as the famous "Surrender Dorothy" on the Beltway overpass.

SAR-CHASM: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the recipient who doesn't get it.

CONRA-TEMPS: The resentment permanent workers feel toward the fill-in workers.

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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~*~*~*~*~

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

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

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:

[Secular Therapy Org.](http://seculartherapy.org)
[Cognitive Neurosciences](http://cognitiveneurosciences.org)

Or call:

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

Or, Joel Schmidt

www.floatoncounseling.com
321-604-7637



Hold the date...



A terrific lineup of speakers is coming to Orlando this fall and you don't want to miss it! The Florida Humanist Association's biennial conference has been confirmed.

- ✓ **Friday Night Party.**
- ✓ **Saturday and Sunday have two full days of speakers.**
- ✓ **Dinner on Saturday night.**
- ✓ **Trivia after dinner.**
- ✓ **Some of the speakers scheduled to speak:**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Bertha Vazquez | • Seth Andrews |
| • Monica Miller | • Gina Duncan |
| • Dr. Dan Batchelder | • Dr. Ryan Cragun |
| • Dr. Anjan Chakravarty | • Sikivu Hutchinson |
| • Aron Ra | • Matt Dillahunty |
| • Debbie Goddard | • Brandon Haught |
| • Amy Monsky | • Sarah Gillooly |

November 1 - 3

Fun & Educational? Absolutely!

Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport

5750 T G Lee Blvd.

Orlando, FL 32822

407/851-6400

Near the Orlando Airport (MCO)

Watch these pages for more to come.

Later this year...

CSI Con, October 16th to the 20th in Las Vegas. Many prominent world Skeptics will be featured. For more details, see:

<https://csiconference.org/>

Also, Save This Date:

2020 World Humanist Congress

Most of our national associations will be there! Pre-announcement of next World Humanist Congress organized by the American Humanist Association in **Miami, 6-9 August 2020**. Venue: Miami Hyatt Regency Hotel. More info as it develops.



**Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, &
AHA affiliate.**

Our regular meeting at N. Tampa Public Library is on hiatus. But we will be meeting on the 20th at the Largo Public Library from 1 to 3 PM Saturday afternoon.

We will join forces with the **Atheists of Florida** (courtesy of Judy Adkins) to have a conversation with Florida State

Representative, **Jennifer Webb**
of Florida House district 69

Do secular voters really count? Is there any hope to defend religious and other personal freedoms in our state? What really needs to happen for the enlightenment sensibility of America's founders to once again prevail? Learn what you can do from this outstanding legislator.

Humanist Quotes

6/19



"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."
— **Mahatma Gandhi**

"Human decency is not derived from religion. It precedes it."

— **Christopher Hitchens**, [*God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*](#)



"Being human means throwing your whole life on the scales of destiny when need be, all the while rejoicing in every sunny day and every beautiful cloud."
— **Rosa Luxemburg**

"Remember your humanity, and forget the rest."
— **Bertrand Russell**





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

Heatwaves

United Nations climate experts on Friday expressed alarm—but not surprise—over the extreme heatwave engulfing Europe, as temperatures in parts of France reached a record-breaking 114 degrees Fahrenheit.

The heatwave, which has hit the continent earlier than in past years and has contributed to wildfires in Spain, is "absolutely consistent" with the climate crisis which is linked to the continued burning of fossil fuels by many of the world's wealthy countries, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) [told Reuters](#).

"The heatwaves reaching Europe are proof that climate change is striking everywhere and it is a serious public health threat."

—Antonio Guterres, U.N. Secretary-General

"Heatwaves will become more intense, they will become more drawn out, they will become more extreme, they will start earlier, and they will finish later," Clare Nullis, a spokesperson for the agency, said of its expectation for the coming years.

The WMO [reported](#) on Friday that the warm global temperatures in the first half of 2019 have so far made the year the third hottest on record, with 2015 to 2019 projected to be the hottest ever.

In France, the town of Eyguieres reported 114-degree heat on Friday. Hundreds of schools were [closed](#) across the country and families consumed a record-breaking amount of electricity at home, plugging in fans and air conditioners to cope with the heat. The country's health minister warned against physical exercise during the hottest part of the day.

More than 500 firefighters in Spain [battled](#) the biggest wildfires the country has seen in 20 years, in Catalonia. The blaze had burned through more than 12,000 acres of land by Thursday and had forced 53 people to evacuate their homes.

The only comparable temperatures to hit Europe happened in 2003, meteorologist Eric Holthaus wrote on Twitter—when tens of thousands of people died.

The continent's [unprecedented heatwave](#) comes as

temperatures have topped 122 degrees in parts of South Asia and the Middle East in recent weeks. As *Common Dreams* [reported](#), nearly 50 people died in a single day in an Indian state as temperatures hovered around 113 degrees and caused numerous cases of heatstroke and other health issues.

Climate; St. Pete Beach, Florida

- **Population with homes at risk of flooding in 2060:** 5,008 (31.5%)
- **Population with homes at risk of flooding in 2100:** 14,056 (88.4%)
- **Habitable land that will be underwater by 2060:** 50.5%
- **Habitable land that will be underwater by 2100:** 99.5%
- **Current property value at risk in 2060:** \$1.6 billion. From a study by the Union of Concerned Scientists

World leaders met in June in Osaka, Japan for the G20 Summit, where a draft statement has already indicated that the countries will not give consideration to the decarbonization climate scientists say they must pursue to limit the warming of the planet.

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

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/>

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



For our Atheists helping the Homeless project -

For all meetings: bring, if you can, small bars of unused soap, small bottles of shampoo, heavy duty socks, any kind of personal care items, or money (for bulk purchase of these items).

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

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



The broadcast is on hiatus during the summer. Previous programs are available **on the internet** www.youtube.com/atheistforum. Tune in!
Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org



June 26
7:00 PM -
9 PM

Port Richey Atheist
Meetup
[Books-a-Million](#)

Sponsored by Atheists of Florida

any atheist friendly folks are welcome - we just ask that people not come to preach or proselytize - aside from that, all are welcome!

[Press here for details.](#)

July Events

[Find details by clicking here](#)

meetup

Be sure to check for changes and RSVP!

July 21
5PM (See
Pg. 3) Apple -
bees Largo

July 28 1PM
Secular Sunday -
brunch with
action Metro Diner,
4011 W Kennedy
Blvd Tampa

July 7 5PM
Que Pasa Rest.
10466 Roose-
velt Blvd. with
St Pete Atheists

Saturday, July 20, 2019 1 to 3 PM

Why Vote? - a discussion with

Representative Jennifer Webb

of Florida House district 69

Does our vote really count? Is there any hope to defend religious and other personal freedoms in our state? Let's discuss this topic with a local member of the Florida House of Representatives.

We can also find out the best way to make your views known to a member of our Florida legislature. **Judy Adkins**, VP, AoF

Equ^Ality

In **June**, with your support, we were able to accomplish a number of things. We have listed them below by committee, along with the plans for **July**.

Activism in June

We submitted letters to a number of newspapers across the state concerning the following issues:

- Why atheists support living wills
- Continuing to Investigate Schools who allow churches to use their facilities for church services. Determined that at least one church in Hillsborough County is in breach of their contract with a school to the tune of about \$30,000/year.
- Created Report Card on how the Florida legislature supported Religious Freedom in 2019.

We encourage you to write letters to the editors concerning issues of interest to Atheists. Please send us a copy of your letter, even if it is not published. We will publish it on our website.

Check out your local schools for church usage. If you do not want to conduct the investigation of the usage, let us know if you would like us to investigate the situation. We can provide you with sample letters and how to find out who to contact in your district.

Continued on next page -7

Saturday, July 6, 2019 **The Socrates Cafe**

Is Individualism Good Or Bad?

A discussion hosted by **Brent Hardaway**

If there's anything that American society has a reputation for, it is promoting individualism. To many, the idea stresses the moral worth of the individual, personal liberty, and self-reliance. It is common for Americans to see these as important values.

As strange as it may seem, however, belief in individualism has been and is still a minority view in much of the world. Most societies have had a collectivist view of the individual and society, placing a greater emphasis on the community, and the individual's responsibility towards it. Obligations to family and tribe take precedent over individual freedoms. For example, in many societies it is expected that children will care for their parents in their old age, and it is considered extremely shameful for children to disregard this responsibility.

Critics of individualism have voiced concerns that individualism can lead to narcissism, selfishness, and a lack of concern for the well-being of others. One criticism of America in general is that it is unconcerned with the common good – creating livable communities where all have access to quality education and health care.

On the other hand, defenders of individualism will note that collectivism has been used to justify ghastly evils. The evils of communist dictators Stalin, Mao, and Pol Pot for example were all justified by an appeal to the common good, disregarding the rights of individuals and punishing them severely for refusing to conform to a rigorous ideology. Such expectations of conformity have the potential to stifle rational thought, as well as progress.

So when all this is considered, is individualism good? Bad? Is there a balance to be found between respect for the individual and also for social responsibility? Join us for another great discussion, and join us at the Independent Bar and Café for dinner and/or drinks afterwards! Join us **July 6 at 3 PM in the Seminole Heights Branch Library, 4711 N Central Ave, Tampa, FL, 33603**

Be sure to RSVP! *meetup*



Atheists of Florida Projects (from Page 6)

Science Socks for Kids

We want to provide socks, especially socks with a science theme, to students in our public schools. We are working on getting wholesale status with a number of companies so our funds can go even farther. We have also approached companies for donations to the project. You can visit our website SockFunds.com to see the latest news on this project.

Wet Socks Suck - helping people without homes

GREAT NEWS - we have received a donation of 1,000 pairs of socks from BOMBAS. We are finalizing our plans for the distribution of these socks. We are also working to assist those people without homes in our community. While the real answer is to provide housing, and we intend to work on that issue, we want to provide some comfort to those people without homes until homes can be found. You can visit our website SockFunds.com to see the latest news on this project.

Teachers Aid

We know that public school teachers purchase many needed supplies out of their own pockets. This is going to get even worse now that funds are being diverted from our public schools to fund private sectarian schools. We felt the need to add this task to our sock project. You can visit our website SockFunds.com to see the latest news on this project.

Education



JUNE

We were represented at the American Humanist Association National Conference and the American Ethical Union conference.

We will begin live streaming our meetings, so anyone in the state can join and contribute to the meeting.

JULY

WHY VOTE? on the 20th we will have a meeting at the Largo Public Library, Jenkins wing, with guest State Representative Jennifer Webb. We are planning on live streaming this event if you cannot attend in person.

Social

We always want to have some fun, so we have regular social meetings.

To find a freethought meeting near you, some social and some not, you can visit our [Meetings page](#).

These groups are not necessarily affiliated with Atheists of Florida.

CAMP 42

August 4 - 10 [Wekiwa Springs State Park](#)

Camp 42 is a place for exploring life, the universe, and everything! It is a unique overnight summer camp that presents our educational programs from a specifically secular and humanist perspective. This means weaving elements of critical thinking, ethics, scientific inquiry, philosophy, social justice, and comparative religion throughout our traditional summer camp activities including sports, arts and crafts, games, swimming, nature walks, outdoor skills, and campfires.

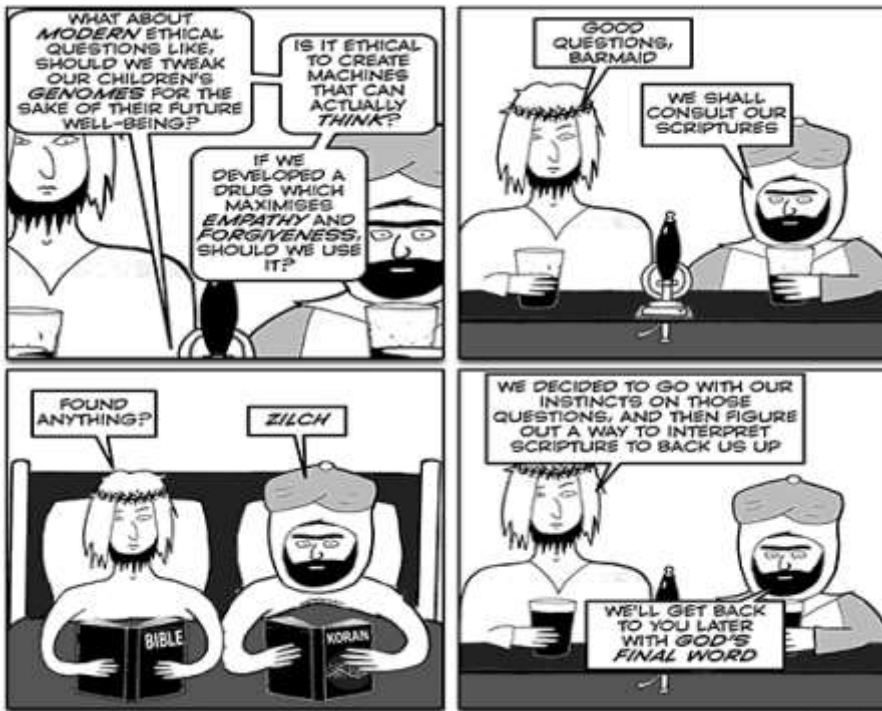
Registration is open and limited to 35 campers ages 8-17.

Editorial cartoons are democracy's canary in a coal mine

By Ann Telnaes, Editorial cartoonist.

The NY Times' decision to drop all editorial cartoons after publishing a controversial cartoon is another body blow to the profession of editorial cartooning."

To read the article and clearly see the editorial cartoon on the right, go here: <https://buff.ly/2KS3eog>



© Jesus and Mo.net

Dominion theology (also known as **dominionism**) is a group of **Christian political** ideologies that seek to institute a nation governed by **Christians** based on their personal **understandings of biblical law**. Extents of rule and ways of achieving governing authority are varied. For example, dominion theology can include **theonomy**, but does not necessarily involve advocating **Mosaic law** as the basis of government. The label is applied primarily toward groups of **Christians in the United States**.

Prominent adherents of these ideologies are otherwise theologically diverse, including **Calvinist Christian reconstructionism**, **Roman Catholic Integralism**, **Charismatic/Pentecostal Kingdom Now theology**, **New Apostolic Reformation**, and others. Most of the contemporary movements labeled dominion theology arose in the 1970s from religious movements asserting aspects of **Christian nationalism**.

Some have applied the term *dominionist* more broadly to the whole **Christian right**. This usage is controversial. There are concerns from members of these communities that this is a **label** being used to **marginalize** Christians from **public discourse**. Others^[who?] argue this allegation can be difficult to sympathize with considering the political power already held by these groups and on account of the often verbally blatant intention of these groups to influence the political, social, financial, and cultural spectrums of society for a specific religion, often at the expense of other marginalized groups.



Donate Please



17
years in
Florida



Reporter's Notebook: Resources For Teachers Teaching Climate Change

By Rebecca Thiele • Jun 10, 2019

Recently the Climate Literacy & Energy Awareness Network reviewed more than 30,000 online resources to help teachers teach about climate change and found that only about 700 were reputable and could be used in schools.

To do our part to help teachers find these resources, we compiled a list of links to materials and training opportunities provided by our sources and our own research. We also shared some tips we learned from teachers and other experts we spoke to for this story.

Resources for Teachers:

[National Science Teachers Association](#)

[The Dynamics of Climate Toolkit](#) by the Purdue Climate Change Research Center

[Dynamics of Climate workshop](#) for middle and high school teachers, June 10-11.

Indiana University's [2019 Summer Science Institute](#) on teaching environmental change. July 8-10 for middle/high school teachers and July 10-12 for elementary school teachers.

[NASA](#), [NOAA](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)

[Climate Literacy & Energy Awareness Network \(CLEAN\)](#)

[Environmental Education Association of Indiana](#)

[NPR: 8 Ways To Teach Climate Change In Almost Any Classroom](#)

[Global Oneness Project](#) (Lori Baker's pick)

[Footprint Calculator](#) (Used by Keith Morey and Kurtis Moffitt)

Climate Exercises In Class

Carolyn Hayes is the executive director for HASTI — the [Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc.](#) She says suggests getting kids interested in climate change by looking at how it affects things locally.

"Just to give you an example, it's not necessarily climate change, but maybe there was some pollution that went on in a river that ran by the school and a lot of fish died," Hayes says.

"So what caused that? How can we find out the evidence and figure out what was really going on? And could we have done something to prevent it from happening?"

Hayes also suggests having students gather data on a climate topic and present it to other classmates in a forum. In Keith Morey's class, every student picks a different city on Earth and finds the average high and low temperature in that city. Then they combine those temperatures to come up with the average

We are deeply concerned with the moral education of our children. We want to nourish reason and compassion. We believe in an open and pluralistic society and that democracy is the best guarantee of protecting human rights from authoritarian elites and repressive majorities. ~ Center for Inquiry [The Affirmations of Humanism: A Statement of Principles](#)

temperature of Earth. Morey says they'll also talk about how water temperatures affect the planet.

"That gives them a better sense of what climate is," Morey says.

Kurtis Moffitt of Eastern Greene Middle says he has his students divide into groups and read different articles. They talk about different opinions on climate change — from global leaders like President Trump, scientists, teachers, and others — and think critically about who is saying what.

"A lot of it is, teaching these kids — one don't believe everything you hear. Research, find out what's going on," he says.

Moffitt says he also holds classroom debates on climate change. He says sometimes those discussions get heated, but everybody walks out friends.

"It's neat to see a lot of kids going, 'There is a problem and we need to do something about it,'" he says.

Moffitt's class will look at tree rings and learn what the thinness or thickness of the rings tell us about the climate. He also sets up a greenhouse and has students measure the temperature inside and outside the greenhouse — showing the "greenhouse effect."

Taking Initiative — Whether You're A Teacher Or Not

David Evans with the National Science Teachers Association says if you want to make sure kids are getting quality information on climate change, you need to let the people in power know it's a priority. He says when it comes to education policy, a lot of those decisions are made at the state and local level.

"I think that strong support, supportive teachers, citizens letting their school boards know how important the issue is — is one way to help teachers get the resources that they need," Evans says.

READ MORE: [Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2018](#)

Lori Baker is a science teacher at Center for Inquiry 27 in Indianapolis. She says she learned a lot by attending the [Earth Science Information Partners](#) annual conference — which isn't made for teachers. She says she was surprised at how much scientists can predict about our climate. "Essentially they can tell when our carbon dioxide emissions reach a certain point, this will happen to this city. I was stunned when I was seeing this," Baker says.

Baker says scientists aren't always the best at messaging — so it's teachers' responsibility to collect that info and share it with their students.

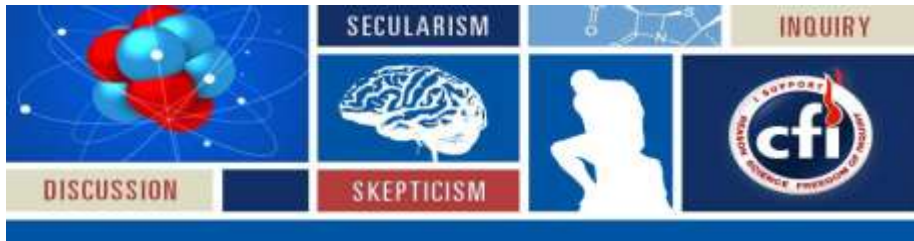
Indiana Environmental reporting is supported by the Environmental Resilience Institute, an Indiana University Grand Challenge project developing Indiana-specific projections and informed responses to problems of environmental change.

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“When we had electromechanical systems, we used to be able to test them exhaustively,” says Nancy Leveson, a professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has been studying software safety for 35 years. She became known for her report on the Therac-25, a radiation-therapy machine that killed six patients because of a software error.

“The problem,” Leveson wrote in a book, “is that we are attempting to build systems that are beyond our ability to intellectually manage.”

But software doesn’t break. Intrado’s faulty threshold is not like the faulty rivet that leads to the crash of an airliner. The software did exactly what it was told to do. In fact it did it perfectly. The reason it failed is that it was told to do the wrong thing. Software failures are failures of understanding, and of imagination.

“The problem is that software engineers don’t understand the problem they’re trying to solve, and don’t care to,” says Leveson
<http://bit.ly/2WQ9oN7>

A reminder of how religion and local ignorance degrades government.

CDC gets list of forbidden words: Fetus, transgender, diversity

Washington Post by Lena H. Sun and Juliet Eilperin, 2017

The Trump administration is prohibiting officials at the nation's top public health agency from using a list of seven words or phrases — including "fetus" and "transgender" — in official documents being prepared for next year's budget.

Policy analysts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta were told of the list of forbidden words at a meeting Thursday with senior CDC officials who oversee the budget, according to an analyst who took part in the 90-minute briefing. The forbidden words are "vulnerable," "entitlement," "diversity," "transgender," "fetus," "evidence-based" and "science-based."

In some instances, the analysts were given alternative phrases. Instead of "science-based" or "evidence-based," the suggested phrase is "CDC bases its recommendations on science in consideration with community standards and wishes," the person said. In other cases, no replacement words were immediately offered.

The Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the CDC, "will continue to use the best scientific evidence available to improve the health of all Americans," HHS spokesman Matt Lloyd told The Washington Post. "HHS also strongly encourages the use of outcome and evidence data in program evaluations and budget decisions."

POINT OF INQUIRY RADIO SHOW & PODCAST

As science standards across the country improve to include middle school standards on evolution, more and more teachers are teaching evolution for the first time and the battle to teach sound science moves into the individual classrooms themselves. The Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES) is a program of the Center for Inquiry. TIES seeks to help teachers teach evolution by providing them with the content and resources to do so effectively. In just three and a half years, TIES has grown from a powerful idea shared by Richard Dawkins and Bertha Vazquez to a network of over fifty teachers who have presented over 100 professional development workshops in over 40 states.

Podcast: <http://bit.ly/2JRIw9C>

Sign up to receive the newsletter: <http://bit.ly/2FjiLcw>



From *The Morning Heresy*:

As expected, the **Supreme Court** decided that a 40-foot statue of the “swoosh” logo is not an endorsement of Nike. Wait. I mean a 40-foot statue of an apple with a bite out of it is not an endorsement of the maker of iPhones and Macs. No that’s not it either. A 40-foot Star of David is not an endorsement of Judaism. That’s it. That’s what they said. NO I REMEMBER NOW. They decided in their remarkably finite wisdom that a **40-foot cross is not an endorsement of Christianity**. AMAZING. What’s even sadder is that, as I said, there was no doubt that this is what would happen. It’s almost like the Supreme Court is now just a rubber stamp for the religious right. Which is crazy, of course. No way that could be true.

What was I saying? Right. **In our statement decrying the decision**, which of course we knew we would have to make, we held little back. I mean, we didn’t hold much back, but we did NOT hold back Little, as in CFI legal director Nick Little:

“No symbol represents Christianity more fully and obviously than the Latin cross. To those driving in Maryland’s D.C. suburbs, this cross stands stark and alone as a public declaration of the Christian nature of government. It dismisses the equal citizenship

Read the rest here: <http://bit.ly/31Oeh8a>



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

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



When the religious right was pro-choice evangelicals applauded Roe v Wade

By Rmuse (Community article appearing on Daily Kos.)

Most American women are aware that there is a concerted Republican effort to eradicate their autonomy as free human beings; particularly to eliminate their right to self-determination regarding their own bodies.

In fact, it is fair to say that according to a WSJ/NBC poll, most Americans are aware of, and oppose, the religious extremists' crusade to delete women's constitutional human right to: "*Control one's own body, assert bodily integrity and exercise self determination.*" According to the poll:

A record number of Americans (71 percent) are opposed to overturning the landmark Supreme Court ruling that recognized abortion as a woman's constitutional right."

That significant majority of Americans are cognizant that women are under assault and because they are not slaves to the heretical Christian "pro-life" crusade, they support all women's right to control their own bodies. In spite of religious Republicans and evangelical extremists' efforts, decent Americans are opposed to the current theocratic crusade to regulate and control women by overturning Roe v. Wade.

Obviously, religious Republicans in thrall of the Vatican could not possibly care less what a significant percentage of the population wants – particularly when controlling women and abridging their constitutional freedoms is at stake and under "*their*" theocratic purview.

Moreover, a recent Supreme Court ruling in lowly Kansas determined that the religious Republican assault on women's bodily autonomy is abominable and strictly prohibited under the Constitution. That High Court ruled that women enjoy constitutional freedoms, and protection from religious Republican men, "*to control their own bodies as a basic human right*" – a right the Vatican has convinced Republicans and their evangelical extremist supporters is an attack on their perceived religious freedom to regulate and control women. (author bold)

The recent spate of Republican states criminalizing women who choose a legal medical procedure is, of course, driven by evangelical extremists bound to obey the 1968 papal encyclical issued from the Vatican to help male religious leaders worldwide "*regulate*" women's lives by controlling their bodies.

Many will argue violently that evangelical fanatics hate Catholics in general, and the Vatican in particular, with honest-to-dog religious passion. However, although that may appear to be true, it does nothing to dispute the fact that the so-called "*pro-life*" movement is a Catholic construct being executed by religious Republican men.

The religious right was not always opposed to a woman's legal right to control their own bodies; that monstrous religious crusade began a full six years after the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling. Although evangelical fanatics will never admit it, they are attempting to enforce compliance

of the Vatican's 1968 papal encyclical on "*regulating women*," and to provide patriarchal Republicans with emotion-driven electoral support founded on biblical heresy. The so-called pro-life movement's *raison d'être* is in stark opposition to their god's immutable utterance in the religious book they claim informs every aspect of their pathetic lives.

According to the Christian's "*Holy Bible*," and the unerring word of the Christian's almighty god, there is no "*living being*" until it takes "*the breath of life*." That concept is repeated throughout the Christian bible. And, prior to the Heritage Foundation's embrace of the Vatican encyclical on regulating women, one of the "*most famous Christian fundamentalists of the 20th Century*" followed the immutable word of his biblical god on when life begins. It was never at the moment of conception. It was and still is after a fetus leaves the womb and breathes of its own accord.

The Southern Baptist Convention's president at the time of the Roe ruling, Dallas First Baptist Church preacher W. A. Criswell, celebrated the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling by taking the time to write that he was pleased.

"I have always felt that it was only after a child was born and had a life separate from its mother that it became an individual person, and it has always, therefore, seemed to me that what is best for the mother and for the future should be allowed." (author bold)

That assessment informs that even evangelical leaders were still reading their "*Holy Bible*" and attempting to follow the teachings of their "*unerring god*" prior to becoming agents of the Catholic Church in America.

To be fair, at the time of the Roe decision there were a few, very few, evangelical extremists who only mildly criticized the ruling. For the most part "*the overwhelming response was silence, even approval.*" In particular, evangelical fundamentalists "**applauded the decision as an appropriate articulation of the division between church and state, and between personal morality and state regulation of individual behavior.**" (author bold)

Read the rest here: <http://bit.ly/2N4JmkM>

The Center for Inquiry (CFI) strives to foster a society free of the dogmatic influence of religion and pseudoscience; a society inspired by the ideals of the Enlightenment, the wonders of science, and the limitless potential of human intelligence and creativity; a society in which beliefs are not granted the same rights as people, where the freedom of expression is enjoyed by all, and all ideas are open to the scrutiny of reason.

Secular government. Free inquiry. Critical thinking. Humanist values. This is the Center for Inquiry.

Join us, we need you — <http://bit.ly/2pTDfEj>

The meaning of life is not to be discovered only after death in some hidden, mysterious realm; on the contrary, it can be found by eating the succulent fruit of the Tree of Life and by living in the here and now as fully and creatively as we can. ~ Paul Kurtz



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!](#)



What is wrong with the intelligent design movement's mantra, "Just follow the evidence wherever it leads?" Isn't that what good science is always supposed to do?

By [Barry Goldberg](#), on Quora

Sure, that's what good science is supposed to do. And it's exactly why intelligent design is not actually good science because they don't actually follow that mantra any more than the Flat Earth Society follows it.

First of all, what evidence the ID movement claims to have is what I call "negative" evidence instead of "positive" evidence. Instead of actually producing any evidence whatsoever that there actually *is* any sort of "intelligent designer" or that any biological system is actually "intelligently designed", they rely solely on the claim that science cannot adequately explain how particular biological systems could have evolved through purely natural processes (and therefore, of course, they *must* have been designed by an intelligent designer). However, this is just one big "argument from ignorance" (a.k.a. "argument from personal incredulity), and that's not how science works. After all, in science, lack of a better explanation is not actually evidence for your explanation.^[1]

Second of all, many of the claims about "irreducible complexity" (*i.e.*, that certain systems are just too complex to evolved naturally) are just plain false. For example, ID proponents have claimed that human eye and flagella on bacteria were "irreducibly complex" despite the fact that both can adequately be explained through naturalistic processes alone.^{[2][3]}

Third of all, the idea that *some* biological systems are too "irreducibly complex" to have evolved naturally and therefore there *must* be an intelligent designer is undercut by all the other many, many, many biological systems for which we do have perfectly adequate naturalistic explanations. If you have to cherry pick just a few systems out of millions, it's much more likely that we simply haven't discovered the exact processes involved for those few yet than to imagine that an intelligent designer decided to make all those other systems *look* like they evolved naturally. And if you want to argue that the purported

"intelligent designer" really wanted to hide evidence of its existence by making all those systems look like they evolved naturally, why would it then make a select few look like they didn't?

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, "good science" involves examining the evidence and coming to a conclusion based on that evidence. Intelligent Design proponents, however (despite the fact that deny this vociferously), do the exact opposite. It has been shown time and again that Intelligent Design is nothing more than a rebranding of good old fashioned creationism in an attempt to have it taught in public school science classes^[4], and as such it *starts* with the conclusion that "God did it" and then looks for evidence to support that conclusion.

Footnotes

^[1] [Lack of a Better Explanation Is Not Evidence for Your Explanation by Barry Goldberg on Essays on Atheism](#)

^[2] [Evolution of the eye - Wikipedia](#)

^[3] [Evolution of flagella - Wikipedia](#)

^[4] [Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District - Wikipedia](#)

Read the rest here <http://bit.ly/2ICMCyl>

Skepticism | *noun* | skep'ti'sm :

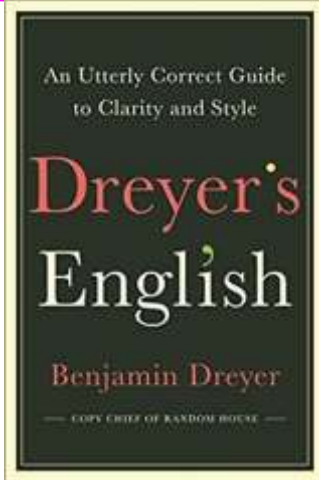
The method of suspended judgment, systematic doubt or criticism characteristic of skeptics

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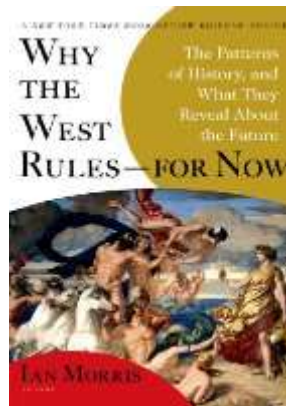
Click on the book's **image** for more info



A witty, informative guide to writing "good English" from Random House's longtime copy chief and one of Twitter's leading enforcers of proper grammar--a twenty-first-century Elements of Style.

As authoritative as it is amusing, this book distills everything Benjamin Dreyer has learned from the hundreds of books he has copyedited into a useful guide not just for writers but for everyone who wants to put their best foot forward in writing prose. Dreyer offers lessons on the ins and outs of punctuation and grammar, including how to navigate the words he calls "the confusables," like tricky homophones; the myriad ways to use (and misuse) a comma; and how to recognize--though not necessarily do away with--the passive voice. (Hint: If you can plausibly add "by zombies" to the end of a sentence, it's passive.)

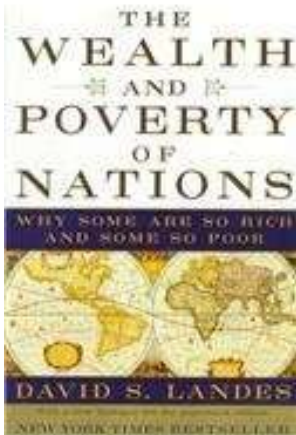
Sometime around 1750, English entrepreneurs unleashed the astounding energies of steam and coal, and the world was forever changed. The emergence of factories, railroads, and gunboats propelled the West's rise to power in the nineteenth century, and the development of computers and nuclear weapons in the twentieth century secured its global supremacy. Now, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, many worry that the emerging economic power of China and India spells the end of the West as a superpower. In order to understand this possibility, we need to look back in time. Why has the West dominated the globe for the past two hundred years, and will its power last?



The Wealth and Poverty of Nations is David S.

Landes's acclaimed, best-selling exploration of one of the most contentious and hotly debated questions of our time: Why do some nations achieve economic success while others remain mired in poverty? The answer, as Landes definitively illustrates, is a complex interplay of cultural mores and historical circumstance. Rich with anecdotal evidence, piercing analysis, and a truly astonishing range of erudition, *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations* is a "picture of enormous sweep and brilliant insight" (Kenneth Arrow) as well as one of the most audaciously ambitious works of history in decades.

For the paperback edition, Landes has written a new epilogue, in which he takes account of Asian financial crises and the international tension between overconfidence and reality.



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<https://secularhumanism.org/>

Skeptical Inquirer Magazine and Committee for Skeptical Inquiry

<https://skepticalinquirer.org/>

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

The Matt Cooper

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Humanist Society members can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, at any meeting. Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

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3. Why Evolution is True Jerry Coyne
4. The Second World Panag Khanna
5. Denialism Michael Specter
6. The Selfish Gene Richard Dawkins
7. Democracy Incorporated Sheldon Wolin
8. The Upside Irrationality Dan Ariely
9. The End of Growth Richard Heinberg
10. The God Delusion Richard Dawkins
11. All That We Share Jay Wallgasper
12. Sex, Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
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77. Culture of Honor Nisbett - Cohen
78. Rot on the Vine Stenes
79. Thoughts of a Freethinker New Kaye * Essential works
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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 &



secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

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St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: 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: Check the meetup site above.

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University of South Florida Humanities Institute



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Time: 7:00 pm.

Fall listings due out in September



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Topic: Political Ideologies: Are they changing, evolving? Going backward or forward?

See our Meetup site:

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/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa/>

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

Thanks, *Jennifer Hancock*

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)
MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:

MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB

On the web at: www.maaf.info



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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.



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Alex Jones, Bigotry, Falsehoods, and “Censorship”

By **Norm R. Allen Jr.**

Institute for Science and Human Values



Paranoid conspiracy theorist and reactionary polemicist Alex Jones has been banned from Apple, Facebook, YouTube and Spotify. Jones, through his website Info Wars and other outlets over the past 20 years, has promoted such conspiracy theories as the following:

- Barack Obama was not born in the U.S. and is not a U.S. citizen
- Hillary Clinton headed a sex trafficking ring with the D.C.-based Comet Ping Pong Pizza establishment (aka, Pizzagate)
- The terrorist attacks on 9/11 were inside jobs
- Hitler and Mussolini were leftists that influenced the Left in the U.S.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is forming concentration camps to brainwash Americans
- The Sandy Hook massacre, in which 20 children were murdered, was a hoax

However, as cruel and bizarre as these beliefs are, they are not why Jones has been barred from so many social media outlets. He was barred because these non-governmental businesses have standards against hate speech, which Jones repeatedly violated. The pressure from anti-bigots had become so great that the social media giants had to react.

This is simply not an issue of censorship. The government had nothing to do with any of this. More importantly, Jones is free to peddle his bigotry and falsehoods on his website and in many other ways. Jack-booted government thugs are not coming after him and his ilk. Still, Jones, predictably, has turned this into a First Amendment issue. Not surprisingly, Jones is in “good” company. The paranoid conspiracy theorist-inChief, President Donald Trump, complains that Google is biased against conservatives, as does Jones. Jones claims that he is advising Trump in his opposition to social media. (Trump has appeared on Jones’ show and has even stated that Jones is worthy of a Pulitzer prize!)

This is a baseless claim against Google. Google prioritizes credible original sources over paranoid conspiracy theories and “real” fake news. However, how does one reason with a paranoid conspiracy theorist? In the convoluted logic of the conspiracy theorist, strong evidence against the theory is viewed as part of the conspiracy! As someone once said, “once fanaticism gets inside you, nothing else can.” Ironically, the conservatives that whine about “fake news” are Jones’ biggest supporters.

Like Trump, most of these conservatives seem to believe that anything with which they disagree must be fake news. Meanwhile, Trump tells an estimated seven lies per day, which his gullible followers eagerly accept. To his credit, Jones has his share of progressive supporters. They embrace the slippery slope common logical fallacy, or the idea that Jones was unjustly banned from social media, and that anyone with unpopular ideas could also be banned.

Indeed, I first became fascinated with Jones’ banning from

social media as I was listening to a radio program I used to appear on regularly as a guest. The talk show host, Mary Davis, asked her guests about anything in the news they wanted to discuss. Frank Gist, another regular guest, brought up the Alex Jones story.

Much to my horror and disgust, Gist said that “some conspiracy theories are true,” and started to defend the idea that 9/11 was an inside job. He said he would gladly debate anyone on any number of conspiracy theories.

Thankfully, there was a professor that was also a guest on the show who was able to show how crazy and dangerous these kinds of ideas are. It is sad that otherwise rational commentators can destroy their credibility by promoting paranoid conspiracy theories. However, should people be censored because they promote conspiracy theories? Conspiracy theories can cause widespread panic, rage, violence and death throughout populations. Blacks and Jews have been historically victimized by conspiracy theories and rumor mongering. Is this any different than shouting fire in a crowded theater when there is no fire? It seems that if conspiracy theories lead to violence, the conspiracy theorists should in some way be held accountable for his or her words. They could certainly be held legally accountable if they were found to be inciting to riot.

It is amazing how comfortable Trump supporters are with a paranoid conspiracy theorist in the White House. They do not understand – or care – what it means to have a sitting president that is divorced from reality. What does this say to the rest of the world? There certainly will not be any support for reason in this regard coming from most of Trump’s fellow Republican politicians. He succeeded in terrorizing them way back during his run for the Presidency. Republicans seem to stand for nothing but naked political power by any means necessary. They have shown repeatedly that they are willing to put the pursuit of political power before the best interests of their country, while hypocritically wrapping themselves in the flag.

Though they obviously do not care, history will judge them harshly for their greed, duplicity and cowardice.

Norm R. Allen Jr. is the editor of two groundbreaking books,

- **AFRICAN-AMERICAN HUMANISM: AN ANTHOLOGY**
- **THE BLACK HUMANIST EXPERIENCE: AN ALTERNATIVE TO RELIGION.**
- He is currently writing a third book, **SECULAR, SUCCESSFUL and BLACK: 25 PROFILES.**

For 21 years, Allen had been the first and only full-time African American secular humanist to travel the world promoting secular humanism. He has spoken on numerous radio and television shows including National Public Radio, and strengthened 72 humanist groups in 30 African nations. His writings have appeared in numerous books and encyclopedias, including **VOICES FOR EVOLUTION**, published by the National Center for Science Education.

Heatwaves continued from Page 6

According to *Politico*, President Donald Trump arrived at the meeting prepared to pressure Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Australia, and Turkey to oppose climate action commitments at the summit.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged leaders to use the summit to push for a rapid shift away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy sources to cut emissions by 45 percent over the next decade, as he planned to at the United Nations' upcoming [Climate Action Summit](#), beginning Sunday in Abu Dhabi.

"The heatwaves reaching Europe are proof that climate change is striking everywhere and it is a serious public health threat," Guterres [tweeted](#).

"The green economy offers countless benefits," he [added](#). "But to reap them we need rapid transition, deep transformation, and political will."



Foundation beyond Belief



Calling All Humanists! FBB (along with [All Hands and Hearts: Smart Response](#)*) is deploying to Florida to help rebuild from Hurricane Michael—the strongest hurricane ever to pummel the panhandle. If you (or anyone you know) can join us Sept. 3rd-14th, FBB wants you! Communal housing, food, snacks, water, and training are all provided. Travel assistance is an option! Click [here](#) for more details.



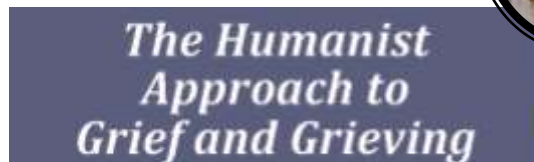
Our next lecture series will begin in the fall. Watch this space!

For more news and activities, see: <https://www.husbay.org/index.htm>

Keeping up with Jennifer...

Thinking Freely Speaking Out

The Humanist Approach to Grief and Grieving



Humanism provides an excellent framework for coping with grief. It is rational, compassionate and responsible. We accept our grief in the present with the goal of finding a way to live our lives fully despite our loss. This book is offered as a resource that you can turn to as your process your grief: providing insights and meditations to help you contemplate how you approach your grief in the hopes that it might ease your journey somewhat.

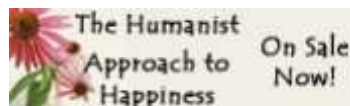
[Learn More](#)

[Purchase on Kindle for 1.49](#)

Available in Paperback for \$7.50

[Amazon](#) , [CreateSpace](#)

The Humanist Approach to Happiness: Practical Wisdom



A book that basically says – here are personal ethics, here is why they are important, and here is how you can apply them to your daily life and why doing so will help you live a happier more productive life. It isn't a philosophy book so much as a book about the pragmatic reasons for being an ethical, compassionate and responsible person.

[Learn more](#)

[Buy the book now](#)

[On Sale for only \\$12.98](#)

The Humanist Approach to Happiness by Jennifer Hancock is also available through [Amazon.com](#), [Kindle](#) and other [E-book versions](#) are available for \$6. Or, Purchase an autographed copy [here](#)



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

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

From our friends at the **British Humanist Association...**

Introducing humanism: non-religious approaches to life

Join **Sandi Toksvig** for an exploration of humanism and life's big questions.

The course covers a wide range of topics relevant to the study of any worldview: identity, knowledge, meaning, and morality. Featuring contributions from philosophers, representatives of humanist organisations, and members of the public, it encourages discussion and debate around life's big questions: *How can I know what is true? What is the best way to live? What kind of world do I want?*

You'll explore the tensions and dilemmas contained within a humanist view, as well as the arguments against it, and the responses humanists give to those arguments. Whether you are a humanist, religious, or none of the above, it should allow you the opportunity to reflect on life's bigger questions for yourself.

Launched in 2018, over **10,000 people** have already taken the course. Over 9 out of 10 would recommend it to others.

Join us for a conversation about the best way to live!

Course outline

Week 1: Humanism and the human being

Week 2: Understanding reality

Week 3: Making life meaningful

Week 4: Being good

Week 5: Humanism in practice: a better world?

Week 6: What is humanism?

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for Introducing humanism.



TBCoR Leadership Team 2019

Judy Adkins
AoF

Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH

Mark Brandt,
UUCH

Chris Brown,
MAF

Jenn Hancock,
GTBHF

Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS

Jim Peterson - Facilitator
HSS, TBPC

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net CoR Facilitator



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – July, 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



Various Sundays, 2 PM; & Friday nights	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Nights	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP : http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I	
TBA – various activities	TRI-COUNTY – Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I	
2nd Saturday, 2 PM see Pg. 2 3rd Sunday -Dinner see Pg. 3.	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists Now on the 2nd Saturday at 2 PM !	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists	
TBA – various astronomy activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
TBA - numerous events—this semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary! Page 12.	
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required. Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members.</i> http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	N TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP : No program this month! http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
Various Saturdays	NE CLEARWATER – CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. RSVP is required. Must have read the book under discussion to attend. http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I	
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers	
4 th Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	
Various Saturdays/Sundays plus various other times/venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings & other activities. Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	

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



Find them at: [www.http://polkatheists.org/](http://polkatheists.org/)

Polk Atheists on Bible Study in Public Schools

Is this truly about religious liberty, or are we really talking about religious privilege? It's quite obvious by the comment threads on news articles that the general public sees this as an opportunity to "put God back into our schools" and they're not talking about a ceremonial deist god. They mean their God of the Holy Bible, specifically.

But, the Florida Legislature passed HB 195, filed by Democratic Representative / Demon Buster Kimberly Daniels, it would be awfully hard to argue this is anything other than what it clearly is: an effort to promote Christianity above all else.

It's important to understand the background and design of these bills. One only needs to read the plain text of the *Report and Analysis on Religious Freedom Measures Impacting Prayer and Faith in America* (aka Project Blitz). For this specific bill, don't be fooled. The authors of this legislation know exactly what they're doing.

They're selling it as an objective, non-proselytizing, non-sectarian study of the Bible for its literature and history, with no process by which to ensure that these requirements are met. In states that already have such classes, *studies have discovered* that they're not entirely objective after all. And the authors know that by making this an elective class which all public schools would be required to implement, many of us will shrug and say, "It's an elective. They don't have to take it." They've wrapped the pill in peanut butter to make it easier to swallow. And that's how this bill passed.

Find out exactly where your elected officials stand on this issue. Be prepared to offer your position. Let them know you're an atheist or non-Christian voter and think that such a class would violate non-Christian students' own religious liberty by preferencing Christianity over all else. And please – don't fall for the "it's just an elective" trap.



Sarah Ray, Director
Atheist Community of Polk County

LGBTAQ? Explained

A guide from: the [American Psychological Association](#); [NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists](#); [National Center for Transgender Equality](#). After you read them, test your **kLGBTQ**: The first four letters of this standard abbreviation are fairly straightforward: "Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender." The Q can stand for "questioning" -- as in still exploring one's sexuality -- or "queer," or sometimes both.

QUEER: Once considered a demeaning slur for being gay, "queer" is being reclaimed by some as a self-affirming umbrella term, especially among those who consider other labels restrictive. Some still believe it's a homophobic slur, so it's always best to ask or wait for the person whom you're speaking with to use it.

SEX: The scientific community views sex as different from gender. Sex is assigned at birth based on a newborn's physical and biological characteristics, such as chromosomes, hormone prevalence and anatomy. Generally, a newborn's sex is assigned male or female, though some states and countries provide a third option for those who are intersex.

INTERSEX: People born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia or an internal reproductive system that is not considered standard for males or females. Parents and physicians usually choose the sex of the child, resulting in surgery or hormone treatment. Some intersex adults want this practice to end because one's sex at birth may not align with their own sense of gender or identity.

GENDER: The socially constructed roles, behaviors and attributes that serve as cultural indicators of someone's personal and social identity. Typically, these roles are grouped into one of two categories: male or female. That's starting to change, as society grows more comfortable with the idea of gender as a spectrum and not binary.

GENDER IDENTITY: A person's emotional and psychological sense of their gender, which may not align with the sex they were assigned at birth. The most common examples of gender identity are male and female, but there are several terms for people who don't fit into those categories, such as the following...

NON-BINARY: One of the more common terms to describe people who don't identify as male or female. Some may have a gender that blends male and female elements, or they may not identify with any gender. Common synonyms or alternatives to non-binary terms include genderqueer and gender nonconforming.

TRANSGENDER: Unlike non-binary people, transgender people may identify as male or female. What the two groups share is the innate sense that their gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth.

CISGENDER: The prefix "cis" means "on this side." Adding it to the suffix "gender" creates a word for someone whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth. In other words, someone who does not identify as transgender.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: One's innate sexual attraction to other men, women or others who identify as non-binary. Not to be confused with gender, sex or gender identity.

LESBIAN: A noun and an adjective for women who are attracted to other women, although some women prefer to be called gay or queer – it's always best to ask!

GAY: An adjective and not a noun, most often used to describe men who are attracted to other men (except in the aforementioned cases).

BISEXUAL: Someone who is attracted to more than one gender.

ASEXUAL: Asexuality is a sexual orientation characterized by a lack of sexual attraction, but it doesn't rule out romantic attraction.

PANSEXUAL: The prefix "pan" says it all. Pansexual is an adjective for those who are attracted to all types of people, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.