

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News



Vol. 8 No. 6, June, 2019

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

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Freethought 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

THE AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION



2019 AHA National
Conference to be available
on the web - Free!

June 7-9, 2019

For the first time, the AHA will be accessible to all members as it happens. But, you need to register.

Go to this site to join in:

<https://conference.americanhumanist.org>



The American Ethical Union

is having its annual conference in Tampa.

20 - 23 June 2019

The 104th AEU Assembly **Registration is now OPEN!**

Early bird prices end May 17th. This will be a great opportunity to hear from some leading ethical thinkers about some of the most perplexing problems we face. The Venue is the Westshore - Airport Holiday Inn, 700 N. Westshore Blvd. Tampa.

American Ethical Union

2 West 64th Street #408, New York NY 10023

[212-873-6500] [office@aeu.org] [aeu.org]



Distinguished Humanist Pioneer in the Tampa Bay area to be honored

Edward L. Ericson, author of *The Humanist Way* (1988) and several other books on humanism, will be honored with the Felix Adler Lifetime Achievement Award at the AEU Assembly in Tampa. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 22 during the National Ethical Service luncheon. Look for **registration** above so you can join us June 20-23 for "Reclaiming Democracy For All."



Edward L. Ericson

Listen to Freethought Views and News

Atheists of Florida produces *Atheist Forum*, which is now on summer hiatus. to provide 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 **13** for more.

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar

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

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 [AHA](#), [COR](#), & [ASHS](#). Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com



As Humanists and as citizens of the world, we have access to a great many tools to help us in filtering out the monstrous (but often subtle) lies that permeate our media culture from the useful information that may help us regain a degree of control over our lives and fates.

Because so much is at stake, from the vagaries of social culture to the continued existence of life on our planet, our ability to understand and participate in an ongoing national and even international discussion about the ever more urgent issues of our future is increasingly important.

Professor Silber will lead us in a thoughtful deliberation on this, our most important human ability. JP

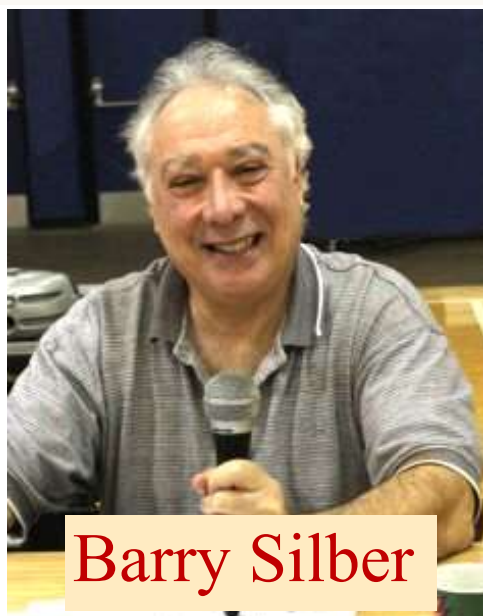
Tampa Bay Harvest



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.

This month's discussion leader: Professor Barry Silber

Today's world, which includes many forms of media, is fraught with misinformation and impropriety. This lecture will discuss the causes of biased thinking and how to combat it in order to become objective. Discussion will also entail the necessity for civil behavior.



Barry Silber

**Please
Join us in:**



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

**Saturday, June 8th
at 2:00 PM**

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

Vol. XXXII No. 6 June, 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 _____

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**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



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 June 16 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

BEST NEWSPAPER HEADLINES OF 2018

1. Include Your Children When Baking Cookies
2. Something Went Wrong in Jet crash, Experts Say
3. Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
4. Drunks Get Nine Months in Violin Case
5. Saudi Head Seeks Arms
6. Is There a Ring of Debris Around Uranus?
7. Would-be Women Priests Appeal to Pope
8. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
9. British Left Waffles on Belgium.
10. Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
11. Trump Wins Budget; More Lies Ahead
12. Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told
13. Miners Refuse to Work After Death
14. Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
15. Stolen Painting Found By Tree
16. Two Sisters Reunited After 18 Years in Checkout Line
17. War Dims Hope for Peace
18. New Study of Obesity Looks for Large Test Group

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...



Freethought in Florida and around the world is an ever growing movement. It should be no surprise then that a number of regional, national, and international organizations are finding a ready audience here.

Freeflo and its predecessor conference, are sponsored by the Humanists of Florida Association, and the Central Florida Freethought Community, among others. David and Jocelyn Williamson have given real leadership to this effort.

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...

CSICON, 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

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 has been cancelled. See you at the AEU conference. See the front page. Check the next edition for more news on upcoming meetings.

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](#)

There is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than there has been for 800,000 years — since before our species evolved.

On Saturday (May 11), the levels of the greenhouse gas reached 415 parts per million (ppm), as measured by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii. Scientists at the observatory have been measuring atmospheric carbon dioxide levels since 1958. But because of other kinds of analysis, such as those done on ancient air bubbles trapped in ice cores, they have data on levels reaching back 800,000 years. [[8 Ways Global Warming Is Already Changing the World](#)]

During the ice ages, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were around 200 ppm. And during the interglacial periods — the planet is currently in an interglacial period — levels were around 280 ppm, [according to NASA](#).

But every story has its villains: Humans are burning fossil fuels, causing the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which are adding an extra blanket on an already feverish planet. So far, global temperatures have risen by about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) since the 19th century or pre-industrial times, according to a [special report](#) released last year by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

More From LiveScience

Every year, the Earth sees about 3 ppm more carbon dioxide in the air, said Michael Mann, a distinguished professor of meteorology at Penn State University. "If you do the math, well, it's pretty sobering," he said. "We'll cross 450 ppm in just over a decade."

The subsequent warming is already causing changes to the planet — shrinking glaciers, bleaching coral reefs and intensifying heat waves and storms, among other impacts. And carbon dioxide levels higher than 450 ppm "are likely to lock in dangerous and irreversible changes in our climate," Mann told Live Science.

"CO2 levels will continue to increase for at least the next decade and likely much longer, because not enough is being done worldwide," said Donald Wuebbles, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "The long-term increase is due to human-related emissions, especially the emissions of our burning of fossil fuels."

However, he noted that the annual peak in carbon dioxide, which fluctuates throughout the year as plants change their breathing rhythms, occurs right now. The annual average value will be more like 410 to 412 ppm, he said. Which ... is still very high.

"We keep breaking records, but what makes the current levels of CO2 in the atmosphere most troubling is that we are now well into the 'danger zone' where large tipping points in the Earth's climate could be crossed," said Jonathan Overpeck, the dean of the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan. "This is particularly true when you factor in the additional warming potential of the other greenhouse gases, including methane, that are now in the atmosphere. "*Homo sapiens*" walked the planet, the Antarctic Ice Sheet was much smaller and sea levels were up to 65 feet (20 meters) higher than they are today, Overpeck told Live Science.

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.

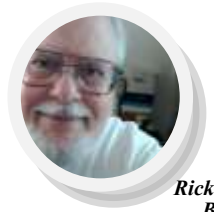
Details & RSVP:

<https://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/>



The mission of the Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay has been to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values. Since October 3, 2002, our all-volunteer chapter has served West Central Florida.

Won't you support us? <http://bit.ly/2pTDfEj>



Rick O'Keefe,
Branch
Coordinator

There Remains the Myth of a Social Safety Net Built on Charity

How Cities Can Rebuild the Social Safety Net

By Brooks Rainwater

Think about the “good” jobs of the past. Whether it's a much-lamented coal miner or a factory worker that pops in your head, what made their work good? It wasn't the day-to-day tasks themselves, but the economic security it provided—not just the benefits and pay, but the stabilizing value it brought to individual households, communities, and society itself. In short, the good jobs of yesterday strengthened the safety net.

Today, we see the service sector replacing secure factory positions. The most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report shows that [restaurants are now creating more jobs](#) than manufacturing and mining—adding nearly 200,000 to the economy since January. As *The Atlantic's* Derek Thompson recently wrote, these positions are responsible for big chunks of urban job growth—more than a third of Cleveland's new hires since 2015 were in restaurants, for example. Many of these types of positions offer fewer, if any, benefits, more onerous and less predictable schedules, and a typical hourly salary of \$12.50—not a wage that supports a family in most of the country.

Such low-wage “growing for now” positions are also in a very tenuous position: Upwards of [47 percent of U.S. jobs are at risk](#) over the next two decades due to advances in technology, and workers earning below \$20 per hour face a greater than 80 percent chance of [displacement](#).

This age of employment uncertainty means that city leaders will need to help build a new urban safety net to help support their citizens. It's also an opportunity to right the wrongs in the existing system and infuse equity into the equation. Here are four ways cities can help prepare for the future of work

Read the rest here: <http://bit.ly/2HsduS9> and here <http://bit.ly/2Hs6qoA>

This book is essential reading for anyone seeking the accurate historical background to many of the today's hot-button political debates. In contrast to conservatives' misleading method of citing proof texts to serve a narrow agenda, Austin allows the Founding Fathers to speak for themselves, situating all quotations in the proper historical context. What emerges is a true historical picture of men who often disagreed with one another on such crucial issues as federal power, judicial review, and the separation of church and state. As Austin shows, the real legacy of the Founding Fathers to us is a political process: *a system of disagreement, debate, and compromise* that has kept democracy vibrant in America for more than two hundred years.

“Most Americans today yearn for more civility in political discourse, or an end to gridlock and partisanship, but we should be careful what we wish for. Gridlock and partisanship make our government slow, but slowness is part of the overall design. The train to despotism usually runs on time; democracy requires patience, commitment, and a willingness to engage in an inherently oppositional political process.” Although the founders never imagined political parties, they were strongly divided about the same issues we experience. “We must understand their process.”

The Americas were founded on greed and religious bigotry. Tolerance is a myth.

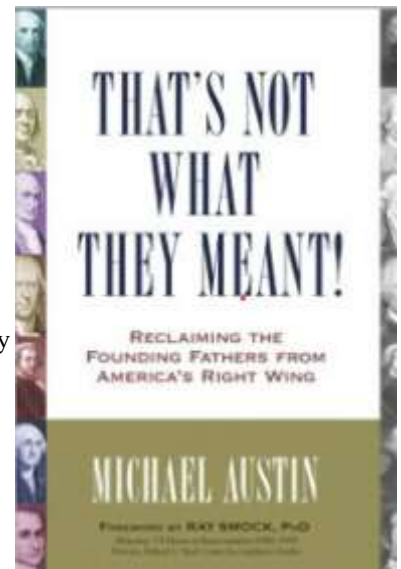
By Kenneth C. Davis, Smithsonian Magazine, Oct. 2010

In the storybook version most of us learned in school, the Pilgrims came to America aboard the *Mayflower* in search of religious freedom in 1620. The Puritans soon followed, for the same reason. Ever since these religious dissidents arrived at their shining “city upon a hill,” as their governor John Winthrop called it, millions from around the world have done the same, coming to an America where they found a welcome melting pot in which everyone was free to practice his or her own faith.

The problem is that this tidy narrative is an American myth. The real story of religion in America's past is an often awkward, frequently embarrassing and occasionally bloody tale that most civics books and high-school texts either paper over or shunt to the side. And much of the recent conversation about America's ideal of religious freedom has paid lip service to this comforting tableau.

From the earliest arrival of Europeans on America's shores, religion has often been a cudgel, used to discriminate, suppress and even kill the foreign, the “heretic” and the “unbeliever”—including the “heathen” natives already here. Moreover, while it is true that the vast majority of early-generation Americans were Christian, the pitched battles between various Protestant sects and, more explosively, between Protestants and Catholics, present an unavoidable contradiction to the widely held notion that America is a “Christian nation”

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





17
years in
Florida



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*

Walmart Just Got Sued for Defrauding Customers With Homeopathic “Medicine”

By Hemant Mehta, May 20, 2019

Last July, the [Center For Inquiry](#) filed a lawsuit against CVS Health Corporation (which includes its nearly 10,000 pharmacies) for promoting and selling homeopathic remedies. CVS was deceiving customers, CFI said, “through its misrepresentation of homeopathy’s safety and effectiveness, wasting customers’ money and putting their health at risk.”

Homeopathy is, of course the sham treatment that takes a trace amount of actual medicine, then dilutes it with water thousands of times over until no actual medicine remains. The resulting mixture of bullshit and nonsense is packaged and sold to customers who may not realize they’re being duped by nothing more than an expensive placebo.

“I find that regardless of the homeopathic catholicons I need to alleviate my discomforts, there are no side ill-effects. In fact, I always stock up when there is a sale. I find the cheapest product is as effective as the more expensive brand, and that any homed works as well as any other.” ~ Old Bob

It’s not just a waste of time and money. Over the past couple of years, some homeopathic remedies meant for babies were [found to harm them](#) because the pills were manufactured improperly. (The makers found a way to screw up doing nothing.)

Both the U.S. [Food and Drug Administration](#) and [Federal Trade Commission](#) have taken action against misleading homeopathic remedies in recent years.

In CVS’ case, the fake remedies are placed right next to the real ones, with no distinction made for customers who don’t understand the difference. CVS doesn’t have a special section marked “These Don’t Work But Give Us Your Money Anyway.” As CFI’s Vice President and General Counsel **Nick Little** said, even online, CVS doesn’t make any distinctions.

Now, CFI is [initiating a similar lawsuit against Walmart](#). According to a [lawsuit filed today](#) in the same D.C. court as the CVS case, the mammoth chain is “committing wide-scale consumer fraud and endangering the health of its customers through its sale and marketing of homeopathic medicines.” **“Walmart sells homeopathics right alongside real medicines, in the same sections in its stores, under the same signs,”** said Nicholas Little, CFI’s Vice President and General Counsel. “Searches on its website for cold and flu remedies or teething products for infants yield pages full of homeopathic junk products.”

It’s an incredible betrayal of customers’ trust and an abuse of Walmart’s titanic retail power.”

“Walmart can’t claim it doesn’t know that homeopathy is snake oil, because it runs its own enormous pharmacy business and make its own homeopathic products,” said Little. “So whether it’s a scientifically proven remedy like aspirin or flatly denounced junk like homeopathic teething caplets for babies, **Walmart sells all of it under its in-house ‘Equate’ branding.** It’s all the same to Walmart.”

It’s almost incredible that Walmart sells generic versions of brand name bullshit... The lawsuit itself includes several pictures of what this looks like in practice, with scientifically tested medicines next to homeopathic products.

“Despite being among the richest corporations on Earth and the largest retailer in the United States, **Walmart chooses to further pad its massive wealth by tricking consumers into throwing their money away on sham medicinal products that are scientifically proven to be useless and potentially dangerous,**” said Robyn Blumner, president and CEO of the Center for Inquiry. “We intend to put a stop to it.”

As CFI notes, the Federal Trade Commission [said in 2016](#) that all marketing for homeopathic products had to include disclaimers saying “(1) there is no scientific evidence that the product works; and 2) the product’s claims are based only on theories of homeopathy from the 1700s that are not accepted by most modern medical experts.”

The lawsuit isn’t meant to pull the products from the shelves. After all, people can waste their money as they see fit. But CFI is calling on Walmart to make it very clear that these products don’t work. They should have clear labels that say as much, and the fake products shouldn’t be placed near actual medicine. That’s **not all**:

In addition, **CFI holds that Walmart should not suggest that homeopathic products can treat particular illnesses or symptoms unless it has “credible scientific testing.”** It recommends clear, legible warnings to consumers regarding what homeopathy is.

The group says, by not doing these things already, Walmart is currently violating the D.C. Consumer Protection Act. They’re asking the court to declare Walmart guilty of violating that law, force the company to include the proper disclaimers in all advertisements and stores, and get them to pay \$1,500 per violation of these rules (to CFI or the “general public” in D.C.). That’s in addition to legal fees and other court costs.



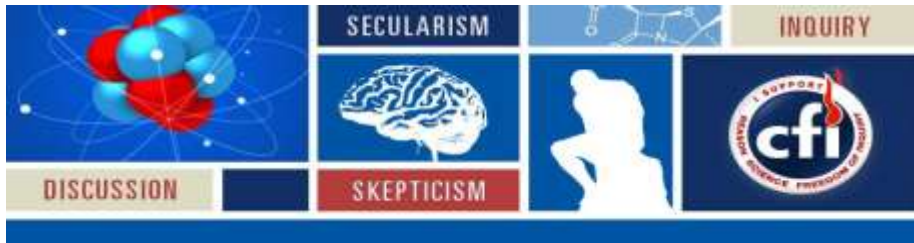
The mind has exactly the same power as the hands: not merely to grasp the world, but to change it. ~ Colin Wilson

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



Click below

JOIN NOW



Incorporated in
Florida on October
3, 2002

Special freethought days in June:

- ◇ ◇ June 03: Jefferson Davis birthday (Florida)
- ◇ ◇ June 14: Flag Day June 16: Father's Day
- ◇ ◇ June 19: Juneteenth—slavery abolished USA

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

6/22 *The Long Honduran Night: Resistance, Terror, and the United States in the Aftermath of the Coup*, by Dana Frank

“All the world's major religions, with their emphasis on love, compassion, patience, tolerance, and forgiveness can and do promote inner values. But the reality of the world today is that grounding ethics in religion is no longer adequate. This is why I am increasingly convinced that the time has come to find a way of thinking about spirituality and ethics beyond religion altogether.” — The Dalai Lama

[It's called humanism, your Dalaiship.]

POINT OF INQUIRY RADIO SHOW & PODCAST

We find ourselves in the information age among many who, although have the access to proper and accurate scientific information, choose not to believe it.

What causes the parents of a newborn to avoid vaccines? Where do the misconceptions of genetics originate? Today on *Point of Inquiry*, Kavin Senapathy talks with Carl Zimmer and Dr. Paul A Offit while at CSICON 2018 about their research into vaccinations, science denial, and how some groups in the US have tried to use genes and heredity to argue in favor of white supremacy. Podcast: <http://bit.ly/2FIWeLV>

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



CHURCH AND STATE

How corporate America invented 'Christian America' to fight the New Deal

“The notion of America as specifically consecrated by God to be a beacon for liberty was the work of corporate and religious figures opposed to New Deal statism and interference with free enterprise. The political conflict found in this concept of Christian libertarianism was modified by President Dwight Eisenhower who advocated a more civic religion of “one nation under God” to which both liberals and conservatives might subscribe.”

That article is 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.

So, What's the "Republican Thing"?

Although then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke (who is now out of office and hiding from congressional corruption investigators) claimed that the abrupt 2017 cancellation of a study into the health effects of mountaintop removal for coal-mining was canceled after a careful review of the grant process, a coal-industry lobbyist and newly-appointed policy advisor within the Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement named Landon "Tucker" Davis has offered a likelier explanation for why a study that was more than halfway done was abruptly shut down. He said (really!) ... **"Science is a Democrat thing."** Reprinted w. permission from PIQUE Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

"Think again about how the history of human knowledge is the history of supernatural explanations being replaced by natural ones ... with relentless consistency, again, and again, and again. There hasn't been a single exception to this pattern." ~ Greta Christina



Air Conditioning Turned the USA Republican

Suddenly, that means people could live in sweltering Southern cities without discomfort — or, in the case of the elderly, even heat-related death. "All of a sudden it triggers this extraordinary migration of human beings," Johnson says. "There are changes in population centers that are visible from space, thanks to air conditioners."

And of course, where people go, so do votes. "There's this big transfer of electoral college votes from the north to the south," Johnson says. "You have more conservative retirees moving to the South now because of air conditioning."

And that's where we come back to Ronald Reagan: "A very important component of Ronald Reagan's election in 1980 is kind of the Sun Belt bloc of conservative voters that just would not have existed," Johnson says, without air conditioning.

After the Second World War, droves of Americans moved from chilly northern states. This demographic shift exactly mirrored the proliferation of air conditioners across the country. "Air conditioning was essential to the development of the Sun Belt," says Mormino. "It was unquestionably the most significant factor."

That population boom gave southern states considerably more influence in the electoral college, the body of voters who hold the key to the White House.

Defining Critical Thinking

Critical thinking...the awakening of the intellect to the study of itself.

Critical thinking is a rich concept that has been developing throughout the past 2,500 years. The term "critical thinking" has its roots in the mid-late 20th century. Below, we offer overlapping definitions which together form a substantive and trans-disciplinary conception of critical thinking.

Critical Thinking as Defined by the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking, 1987

A statement by Michael Scriven & Richard Paul, presented at the 8th Annual International Conference on Critical Thinking and Education Reform, Summer 1987.

Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness.

It entails the examination of those structures or elements of thought implicit in all reasoning: purpose, problem, or question-at-issue; assumptions; concepts; empirical grounding; reasoning leading to conclusions; implications and consequences; objections from alternative viewpoints; and frame of reference. Critical thinking — in being responsive to variable subject matter, issues, and purposes — is incorporated in a family of interwoven modes of thinking, among them: scientific thinking, mathematical thinking, historical thinking, anthropological thinking, economic thinking, moral thinking, and philosophical thinking.

Read the rest here <http://bit.ly/2YF7b3m>

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.

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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!](#)



Telling 'Real' from 'Fake' Psychics

By Benjamin Radford, *A Skeptic Reads the Newspaper*, <http://bit.ly/2GZ7GiO>

Skeptics are known for warning the public about the perils of psychics (ranging from exploitation to fraud), but it may surprise you to know that “real” psychics sometimes join in as well, offering advice about how to avoid those “fake psychics.”

A recent article explained, “Every day thousands of people look to psychics for advice, information and insight on their lives. There’s little doubt that some psychics can help people find peace of mind [sic], but it’s unfortunate that amongst the truly gifted psychics around [sic] there are also several fakes. People who at best have zero or very limited psychic ability but want to help others, or at worst set out to con their audience from the start – whether for payment or because they crave attention and they need to feel special.”

This article is interesting for several reasons including its pseudoskeptical and special pleading fallacy approaches. Here’s some of the tips it offers:

“True psychics are able to give you accurate and relevant information on specific things which are not obvious, for example, they may mention the exact full name of a person from your past, or a place you spent a vacation. Fake psychics cannot do that, instead they make general claims like: ‘I have an older man here, he passed due to a heart problem’, knowing that statistically it’s likely that a good number of people in the audience have lost someone who fits the bill.”

This reasonably accurate description of cold reading is followed up with, “In comparison, a real psychic may mention an older man, but they would add detail such as he passed on several years ago from a heart problem which he had known about but never told anyone. He says that’s the reason he quit driving, even though he blamed it on his eyesight.” But this still doesn’t really solve the problem, for various reasons. Merely adding the qualifier “he knew about but never told anyone” doesn’t help; how could a person know that the deceased knew about his heart problem if he never told anyone, or that that was the real reason he quit driving? It’s all more plausible speculation than confirmable fact, and because of flexible interpretation, the psychic’s client may think, “Well, he didn’t stop driving, but he may have thought about it,” thus seeming to confirm the information.

The article goes on: “Fake psychics speak slowly because they are fishing for clues.” This is incorrect, but the reason the author gives is correct in some circumstances: “They make a statement and then either read your body language or wait for your response to adjust their ‘insights’; making statements like: I can sense you have had heartbreak in your life. (Who hasn’t? If you are suddenly emotional or anxious they will ramp it up.) It’s very recent, but you have spirits with you, supporting you. (If you look blank they try a different tactic.)”

Many psychics, such as John Edward, speak quickly, while others don’t. The idea that fake psychics speak slowly to give them time to react and redirect responses is rarely true; a skilled speaker can do it in a second or less and doesn’t need to draw out the words or statements fishing for time. In fact most psychics speak quickly precisely because the more they say, the more potential bits of information and guesses they throw out, the more likely it is that something will catch someone’s attention and perceive it as meaningful. This is especially effective in a large audience, where the psychic on stage may not be close enough to the person (or the place may not be well lit enough) to read the microexpressions and body language. Speaking slowly would be of no help in those circumstances, so they adopt a faster, rapid-fire patter technique (I saw this first hand at several readings by Edward).

And finally, “Fake psychics demand cash to remove curses or spells. This is one of the ugliest aspects of fakery in the psychic sphere. People who feel they may be cursed following endless bad luck are vulnerable to suggestions that they could escape it if they pay for the curse or spell to be removed.” This is an excellent and valuable warning, though of course the best way to avoid these unethical “fake psychics” is to avoid all psychics....

Carla Baron Fumes at Fake Psychics

Sometimes well-known psychics themselves help “warn” the public. In 2011 police outside of Houston, Texas, surrounded a rural farmhouse with guns drawn. They

were acting on a tip from a psychic who told them that the property was the scene of a grisly mass murder: dozens of dismembered bodies would be found there, she insisted—including those of children. It all turned out to be false, and the story made international news. The Committee for Skeptical Inquiry was on the story almost immediately, getting the skeptical perspective out. I wrote a piece that appeared on MSNBC and the Christian Science Monitor, and Joe Nickell was quoted in The New York Times.

Within a day or two psychics were commenting about the skepticism and the whole fiasco—including a famous TV psychic named Carla Baron, who fumed on her blog.

She wrote that the woman “falsely reported a crime. She falsely claimed she had ‘psychic’ ability. THIS is precisely the irresponsible behavior I have pointed out previously in my official blog. Those who wish to ‘help’ – those that feel they have some sort of intuitive ability, those that are just simply lunatics looking for a little attention. This ‘psychic’ who called in the false tips to law enforcement is, in fact, not a psychic at all..... This behavior threatens to tear at the very fabric of any credibility displayed by AUTHENTIC psychics, mediums, and psychic profilers such as myself.” Baron then railed against journalists and skeptics—including myself—who mentioned her name in recent news articles about the failure of psychic detectives. She asks, “Why is it that most MEDIA outlets (and many lesser media – i.e., blogs, discussion forums, individual websites) find it necessary to use my famous name to promote their articles, commentary, and news pieces?”

The obvious answer is that if the subject of the news piece is psychic detectives who cannot solve cases and give false and useless information, then she is Exhibit A.

Baron was part of the TruTV show *Haunting Evidence*, in which she and two other investigators tackled real-life unsolved murders. The show was cancelled after 22 episodes without any of the cases having been solved; two were later closed through police work. The Independent Investigations Group did an excellent analysis of Baron’s claims and found a near-spotless track record of failure. Baron’s question would be like Tiger Woods wondering why he’s being mentioned in a news article on golfing.

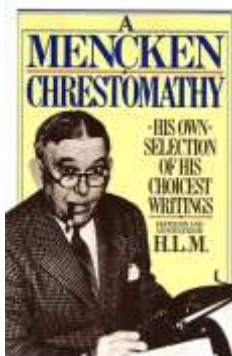
Baron was concerned that all this negative publicity about psychic failures is leading to a modern witch hunt reminiscent of the Salem Witch Trials. No, seriously: “My mind is besieged at the moment with images of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. From June through September of 1692, nineteen men and women, all having been convicted of witchcraft, were carted to Gallows Hill, a barren slope near Salem Village, for hanging.....Is history not only repeating itself, but mutating into ardent new ways of ^[1]witch burning?”

Baron was apparently fearful that she and other “real psychics” may be abducted by angry mobs, put on mock trials, and possibly hung or pressed to death in a public place. It’s not clear whether Baron was worried about “fake psychics,” like the woman who led police to the Texas house. Presumably the best proof of psychic powers (or witchcraft) would be a track record of amazing success and accurate information; in that case I don’t think Baron has much to worry about.

Recommended Reading

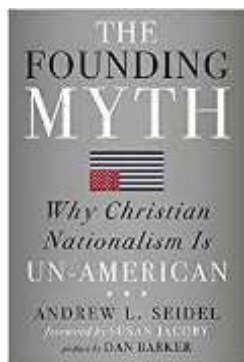
Click on the book's **image** for more info

"Where is the graveyard of dead gods? What lingering mourner waters their mounds? There was a time when Jupiter was the king of the gods, and any man who doubted his puissance was ipso facto a barbarian and an ignoramus. But where in all the world is there a man who worships Jupiter today? And who of Huitzilopochtli? In one year - and it is no more than five hundred years ago - 50,000 youths and maidens were slain in sacrifice to him. Today, if he is remembered at all, it is only by some vagrant savage in the depths of the Mexican forest. Huitzilopochtli, like many other gods, had no human father; his mother was a virtuous widow; he was born of an apparently innocent flirtation

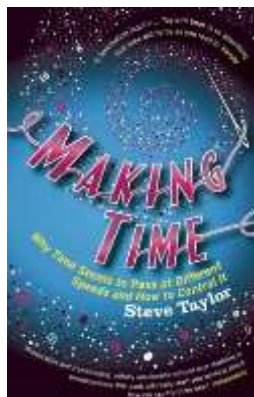


Do "In God We Trust," the Declaration of Independence, and other historical "evidence" prove that America was founded on Judeo-Christian principles? Are the Ten Commandments the basis for American law? A constitutional attorney dives into the debate about religion's role in America's founding.

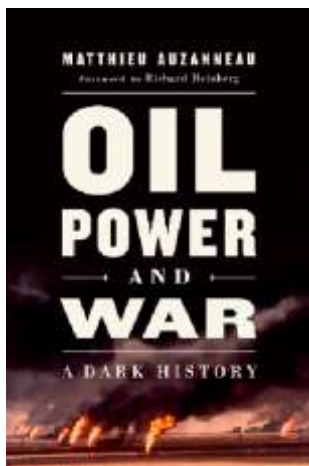
In today's contentious political climate, understanding religion's role in American government is more important than ever. Christian nationalists assert that our nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, and advocate an agenda based on this popular historical claim. But is this belief true? The Founding Myth answers the question once and for all.



Why does time seem to speed up as we get older? Steve Taylor's genre-busting, gripping book explores this all-too-familiar question... Why does time seem to drag when we're bored or in pain, or to go slowly when we're in unfamiliar environments? Why does it slow down draWhy does time seem to speed up as we get older? Steve Taylor's genre-busting, gripping book explores this all-too-familiar question... Why does time seem to drag when we're bored or in pain, or to go slowly when we're in unfamiliar environments? Why does it slow down dramatically in accidents and emergency situations, when sportspeople are 'in the zone', or in higher states of consciousness? "Making Time" explains why we have these different perceptions of time. It puts forward five basic 'laws' of psychological time



Upending the conventional wisdom by crafting a "people's history," award-winning journalist Matthieu Auzanneau deftly traces how oil became a national and then global addiction, outlines the enormous consequences of that addiction, sheds new light on major historical and contemporary figures, and raises new questions about stories we thought we knew well: What really sparked the oil crises in the 1970s, the shift away from the gold standard at Bretton Woods, or even the financial crash of 2008? How has oil shaped the events that have defined our times: two world wars, the Cold War, the Great Depression, ongoing wars in the Middle East, the advent of neoliberalism, and the Great Recession, among them?



The Matt Cooper

Humanist Lending Library

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

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 Wallgasper
12. Sex, Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14. What liberal Media Eric Alderman
15. The End of Faith Sam Harris
16. Plan B Lester Brown
17. The Portable Atheist Christopher Hitchens
18. Open Society George Soros
19. Non Believer Nation David Niose
20. God on Trial Peter Irons
21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond-Robinson
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 Malcolm Gladwell
36. Sway Ori, Rom Brafman
37. The Better Angels of our Nature Steven Pinker
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian Christopher Hitchens
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded Thomas Friedman
40. Gaming the Vote William Poundstone
41. Subversion Fable Alexa KcKearing
43. Evolution and the Big Question David Stamos
44. Why People Believe Weird Things Michael Shermer
45. The World is Curved David Snick
46. The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
47. The Moral Landscape Sam Harris
48. How We Believe Michael Shermer
49. Full House Steven Jay Gould
50. The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith, Editor
53. Science Friction Michael Shermer
54. Genius James Gleick
55. Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
56. Demon Haunted World Carl Sagan
57. Being Right Is Not Enough Paul Waldman
58. Loser Takes All Mark Crispin Miller
59. Taking Back Politics Cathy Allen
60. Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
63. 12 Vol Complete Works Robert Ingersoll
64. On Religious Liberty Roger Williams & Davis
65. The God Makers Baker & Hunt
66. Inevitable Illusions M. Piatrelli-Palmarini
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
69. Bonk Mary Roach
70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
73. Best American Non required Reading Dave 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

Looking for a summer camp?

Check out our Chalice Camp. The camp would be perfect for children from humanist / atheist families. Call the number at right for more information.



Sponsored by the UU Congregation Of Clearwater.



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!

Bill Norsworthy wants you to represent the voice of thousands of people of reason in the halls of power.

As our government undergoes its present, but 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

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.

UU Humanists of Clearwater

at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.
727-531-7704

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



University of South Florida Humanities Institute



June 26 - Community Book Group - **The Confidence Game** by Maria Konnikova

Location: **Southern Brewing & Winemaking**
(4500 N. Nebraska Ave Tampa, FL 33603)
Time: 7:00 pm.



The Crafty Freethinker ...

I am a Yorkshire lass born and bred, currently living in the Sunshine State. Maker of fine Secular Jewelry, many pieces of my own design and using the best material.

I am a lifelong freethinker. My work can be seen by clicking on the image above.



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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, Inc.



A most Remarkable person ...
Christos Tzanetakos 1938 - 2019

A founder of Atheists of Florida and the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund.

Read more on page [19](#).



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

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



The Atheist Forum
Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel

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.](#)

June Events

[Find details by clicking here](#)

meetup

Be sure to check for changes and RSVP!

June 2nd 11AM

Secular Sunday - brunch with action Mom's Place Restaurant 4816 N Dale Mabry Hwy - Tampa

5 PM Que Pasa Rest. 10466 Roosevelt Blvd w\ St Pete Atheists

June 16

Applebee's. Largo 5 PM
See page 3 top.

This letter appeared in the Lakeland Ledger, 5-27-19:

"OK, I'll bite! Who does an atheist pray to? [“Atheist to lead invocation at Polk commission meeting,” May 6]. Sounds like a man without any meaning or hope. It's so sad to see our county commissioners, whom we voted into office, agree for this to happen. Chrissy Woolley, Winter Haven”

A Response:

Ms. Woolley's letter, on 5/27/2019, states that an atheist “has no meaning or hope”. As an atheist I must disagree. As an officer of the Atheists of Florida, I know many people who would disagree, and who daily demonstrate that they have meaning in their lives as well as a great hope for themselves and others.

Atheists do not pray to anyone. She is correct to ask why an atheist should give an invocation. She should be asking why is a prayer being given at a government meeting. We choose to do this because someone has to let their elected representatives know that not everyone in their community is religious. In Polk County only 41% of the people indicate they have a religion and yet there is no more chaos in Polk County than anywhere else. And believing in god certainly does not indicate that a person is moral, just look at the scandals in the various religions, even by their leadership (priest, ministers, etc.).

But she is wrong that we have no hope or meaning in our lives. Many of us choose to live by the words of Robert Ingersoll - "Happiness is the only good. The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make other so." Our meaning comes from our relationships with our family, friends, community, and nature. We find joy in the beauty of a garden, in a sunset, in the laugh of a child, in music. Our hope comes from trying to make the world, the only one we know about for certain, a better place so that we and others can have a better life. We do not behave because of fear of eternal damnation of some god that would condemn us to hell for some other trivial reason, like taking his name in vain.

I grew up in a fundamentalist church, which held that anyone who was not part of our church was going to hell. I feel sorry for people who can only find hope in the vaporous promise of a life after this one, and only behave decently out of the fear of hell.

Judy Adkins, VP, AoF

What White Supremacy Really Means

By **Norm R. Allen Jr.**

Institute for Science and Human Values



White supremacy isn't predicated on white people flourishing, [sic] it's just about white people doing better than everyone else. – David Dennis, Newsone.com, July 27, 2018, "Russia Won Because It Understands America's Obsession with White Supremacy."

In his excellent book, *The Ethnic Myth*, scholar Stephen Steinberg demonstrated that throughout history, poor and working-class Whites in the U.S. often kicked their best interests to the curb if it meant maintaining their status above Black people. Indeed, White supremacy is largely about identity and psychology.

Some of President Donald Trump's most loyal supporters are poor, White, uneducated paranoid conspiracy theorists. They believe that making America great again largely means bringing a White man back to the White House. (Even a White billionaire.) These are the same people that bought into the birther notion that Obama was not a U.S. citizen. They believed he was a secret Muslim with ties to extremist Muslims. They made all kinds of racist remarks about him and his wife.

What is truly remarkable is that many of these Trump supporters are dependent upon Obamacare. However, in pursuit of White privilege, they are willing to jeopardize their health and their lives.

This is this kind of attitude that led the Black clinical psychologist Bobby E. Wright to suggest that racism is a mental illness. Not surprisingly, most White psychologists did not accept his proposal. Still, it raises the question of why it is that so many Whites are willing to sabotage their lives just to keep others on the bottom. That simply does not seem to be sane behavior.

For most African Americans, the accumulation of wealth has been a colossal failure. For example, according to a story dated September 28, 2017 on the website of the Washington Post, White families have about 10 times the net worth of Black families. However, what is especially frightening is that, according to a story dated September 13, 2017 on the website of the Guardian, the median wealth of Black Americans will fall to zero by 2053!

White supremacists are delighted by news of this kind. No matter how poor they might be, they can always identify themselves as belonging to the dominant group. They can feel better about themselves knowing that, regardless of how badly they might have it, there are many others that are suffering even more than they are.

For White supremacists, race trumps everything, including economics and patriotism. This was made especially clear when Trump rallied White bigots by disparaging the family of an American Muslim that died fighting on behalf of the U.S.

During the 2016 Presidential campaign, Trump verbally attacked a Muslim Gold Star family. He antagonized Khizar Khan and Ghazala Khan, parents of Humayun Khan, who, at age 27, died in Iraq in 2004 as he tried to save other soldiers in a car bombing.

It is hard to imagine what more one would have to do to earn the title "hero." Yet, here was Trump suggesting that Ms. Khan was subservient to Mr. Khan and afraid to speak up about her son's

tragic death. At no point was it clear that Trump and his minions were willing to applaud the fallen soldier's sacrifice. On the contrary, they seemed to view Captain Khan as just another Muslim undeserving of any special credit. What should have been obvious evidence of Trump's disrespect for military members, instead fired up his rabid base.

With the exception of Crispus Attucks, the first person to die in the American Revolution, Black patriots have never counted much in the eyes of White supremacists. For example, after W.W. I, many U.S. soldiers returning to the States were victimized by racist abuse, including killings. White supremacists consider themselves to be more American and more patriotic than non-White Americans. They consider non-White Americans to simply be along for the ride as Whites drive the nation to its proper destiny.

Trump has shown that there is now no need for dog-whistle racism in which White supremacists speak to one another in code. In fact, that is why Trump left his Republican competitors in the dust. They were unwilling or unable to descend to Trump's racist depths.

Trump's most loyal supporters – White evangelicals – are those that have the greatest objections to the browning of America. Many of them believe that it is bad for the U.S. that Whites are expected to become a minority during the 21st Century. They are running scared and they will continue to support Trump and his ilk.

White supremacists are not the only ones that feel a need to look down upon others. For instance, extremist Muslim males feel culturally and psychologically obligated to oppress women, even though there is much evidence that equal opportunity for women translates into better societies for all. Many, if not most, sexist Muslims would rather suffer in poverty than bring about equal opportunity for women. As long as many Whites feel the need to look down upon non-White people, White supremacy will be a problem. It is not primarily about economics. It is primarily about psychology and self-worth by any means necessary.

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.

Tampa Bay Thinkers



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

Monday, June, 2019

Topic: What is going on with
 abortion laws? Why?

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



USF Freethinkers

Join Freethinkers@USF for genuine, conversational discourse & a communal atmosphere.

Freethinkers@USF is a cosmopolitan collective of USF students promoting critical thinking & pluralism through dialogue & reasonable inquiry. Join the official group and vote on upcoming discussions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/> for more information.
 contact: fadibitar@mail.usf

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** has a local [Meetup group](#) started. Find out more!



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



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

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

Being Good By Richard Norman

Most people have some idea of how to be good. They may not always do it, but they know how to do it. They know how to be kind, how to be helpful, how to show compassion, how to be honest.

But for a humanist there is more to being good than that, and the 'more' is what Richard Norman explores in this publication.



About the author

Richard Norman is Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Kent and a patron of Humanists UK. He is the author of *Ethics, Killing and War* (1994), *On Humanism* (2004), and was the editor of the collection of essays *Religion and Atheism* (2017).

[Download](#) (free)

<https://humanism.org.uk/humanism/the-big-questions/>

The Big Questions

Watch this space for more titles to come.
What is the meaning of life? How should we live? How can I be good? What happens when we die?

The Big Questions is a brand new series of publications in which we aim to offer humanist perspectives on how to lead confident, happier, and more fulfilled lives in the one life we have. This series will explore some of the fundamental questions in our lives: questions about life, death, morality, meaning, and happiness — and will hopefully help you along the way to living a good life. Each publication, written by a different guest author, will also delve a little deeper into humanist thought and provide some guidance on further reading to give you a rounded understanding of the ideas underpinning these big questions. Each publication is available to download for free for you to keep.



TBCoR Leadership Team 2019

Judy Adkins
AoF

Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH

Mark Brandt,
UUCH

Chris Brown,
MAF

Jenn Hancock,
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Carbon Dioxide *Continued from pg. 5*

"Thus, we could soon be at the point where comparable reductions in ice sheet size, and corresponding increases in sea level, are both inevitable and irreversible over the next few centuries," he said. Smaller ice sheets, in turn, might reduce the reflectivity of the planet and potentially accelerate the warming even more, he added. "It's like we're playing with a loaded gun and don't know how it works."



post carbon institute



On the Abortion Issue

For me, it is not only a woman's issue, it's a human rights issue as well as a church State separation issue. It is undeniable these abortion bans are religiously motivated and the whole purpose is to control women's bodies. If they cared about life then the laws they have enacted wouldn't have carried death sentences (an eye for an clump of cells?). If they cared about the life of the child, then they would have focused on evidence based solutions to limit unwanted pregnancies, with better reproductive education (not abstinence only), easier and cheaper access to birth control, and helping families in need (not eliminating public programs that help children in need).

You also have to realize these religious backed laws will also harm woman that need to terminate a pregnancy to save their life or prevent unnecessary suffering, and women who have had a miscarriage (god induced abortion). Religious leaders are already pushing their agenda in our public schools on public money, in secular government meetings, to allow businesses to discriminate and now in doctors offices to gain control of women's bodies through government mandates. When do you think they will stop? These laws don't help children, babies or families...only the theocratic agenda.

That being said, I don't think anyone should be pro-abortion, but as atheists, as human beings, as people who fight against a theocracy, we should be pro-choice.

My two cents.

Regards,

Brad Perryman

Ed. Note: Brad is a respected activist with the Humanist Society, AoF, and the local astronomical community.



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
Sarasota, Florida

Our next lecture is on June 3rd 2019

Karen Koenig will speak on...

**Weight Stigma—Time to End the
Blame-Shame Game?**

Presented at the Roskamp Center for Arts and Humanities
1226 N. Tamiami Trail

Stop complaining and start helping



Keeping up with Jennifer...

Thinking Freely Speaking Out

I am a Humanist. I believe people are basically good. It's sometimes hard to believe that when I keep being told negative things about things negative people have done. But I still believe it to be true.

Why? Because most of the people I come in contact with - from the wide variety of backgrounds they have - are good people. Most people are good.

I teach how to stop bullying and harassment in the workplace using behavioral science. You would think that would make me focus on the bullies of the world. But most people who we think are bullies, aren't bullies. Most are good people with issues who are having trouble coping with whatever is going on in their lives.

This doesn't mean that really toxic people don't exist. They do. It's more that - they are actually really rare.

When I do a training in a company - what normally happens is that everyone starts behaving better in an attempt to get the person they are in conflict with - to behave more badly. The reality is - people allowed their beliefs to bias how they experienced interactions. Believe someone is bad - everything they do is suspect - even if what they are doing is totally normal.

When you stop treating people as if they are enemies - they often stop acting as if they are your enemy.

Adding to the anger and negativity of the world doesn't help you or anyone else feel better. Reach out to others with compassion. Focus on problem solving instead of blaming. You may just find that you have more in common with other people than you realize. The key - is being open to the possibility that other people are - good.

So stop complaining about other people and start helping your fellow humans solve their problems.

Thanks and take care.

Jennifer Hancock

For much more, see:

<http://www.jen-hancock.com/index.html>



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – June, 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

Freethought News Welcomes to our Community ...



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

Polk Atheists to Participate in Great American Cleanup

Bartow, FL—The Atheist Community of Polk County (ACPC), an affiliate of American Atheists, will be kicking off a volunteer cleanup program as part of its Community Engagement efforts by participating in the Great American Cleanup.

The Great American Cleanup, America's largest community improvement program, takes place during March, April, and May. Approximately 10,000 Polk County volunteers participate in litter removal, tree plantings, flower plantings and much more each year during the Great American Cleanup. The Great American Cleanup is a nationwide cleanup initiative led by Keep America Beautiful.

Source: [Keep Polk County Beautiful](#)

Members of the ACPC will be cleaning up an area in Bartow on May 26th, 2019 as part of the nationwide initiative, which will also kick off a regular local service project in conjunction with Keep Polk County Beautiful's Adopt-a-Road program.

The Atheist Community of Polk County, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting positive atheist culture and awareness through community engagement and volunteer service.

To learn more about the Atheist Community of Polk County, visit www.polkatheists.org or email info@polkatheists.org.



SARAH RAY

CO-FOUNDER/DIRECTOR at

[Atheist Community of Polk County](#)

Sarah is an atheist transgender woman living in Polk County, Florida. On seeing a need for a robust secular community in a highly religious area, she and her wife set out to create the ACPC.

Christos Tzanetakos



1938 - 2019 Pix c/o Patrick Bens

I was born in Greece, a country which was, and still is, saturated with religion.

I came into this world on December 23, 1938. Since it was just before Christmas, I was named Christos which is the name of Jesus in Greek. (Of course I was not consulted)

It is ironic because later I became a founder of Atheists of Florida, (1992) and was the first Co-president of Atheist Alliance (1992-1995) which today is an international organization with member societies from all over the world.

Just like all the Greek children, I was indoctrinated (brainwashed) not only by my parents, both strong believers, but by the official government through the educational system. We had mandatory daily religious classes from elementary thru high school. Naturally, the classes were on Greek Orthodox dogma. Greece was indirectly controlled by the church which even today is strong and owns a large portion of the land. There were laws punishing anyone opposing the church with fines and even jail. After my graduation from the Merchant Marine Academy in 1959, my travels brought me around the globe and I personally experienced the destructive effects of missionaries on native cultures.

Ever since, Jomo Kenyatta's statement has been branded in my brain. "When the missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the Missionaries had the Bible. They taught us how to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land and we had the bible."

Pertaining to the idea of God, I agree with Albert Einstein: I cannot imagine a god who rewards and punishes the objects of his creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own - a god, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty. Neither can I believe that the individual survives the death of his body, although feeble souls harbor such thoughts through fear or ridiculous egotism.

The only good thing that I can say about "God" is to echo George Bernard Shaw, "I am an atheist and I thank God for it."

Christos

Read more on his autobiography [Here](#)



Men and Women Are from Mars, Zontar Is from Venus Opinion

By Gary P. Posner

Or at least so say the “woke” (in so many words). And there can be no disputing the latter of those two cosmic assertions, as anyone who takes the time to watch this Emmy-winning CNN documentary (at least I think that’s what this is) will no-doubt concede (tinyurl.com/Zontar-Venus). But my title’s pre-comma premise may actually crater under critical scrutiny.

Most of us “baby boomers” already had an inkling, but in 1992 the world was officially notified that men and women (in general, with of course many exceptions) are so inherently unequal — not merely in terms of procreational plumbing and muscle mass, but psychologically — that we might as well have evolved on different planets! That year’s *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* by John Gray was to become not merely the #1 bestselling non-fiction book of the decade but, per Wikipedia, “a part of popular culture and the foundation for the author’s subsequent books, recordings, seminars, theme vacations, one-man Broadway show, TV sitcom, workout videos, a podcast, men’s and ladies’ apparel lines, fragrances, travel guides and his-and-hers salad dressings” (tinyurl.com/Yes-Salad-Dressings-Seriously).

Though the book’s author was but a thinly credentialed relationship counselor, a bit earlier that same year, *Time* magazine’s January 20 cover (tinyurl.com/Time-Different) depicted a boy and a girl with this headline: “Why Are Men and Women Different?” The subtitle: “It isn’t just upbringing. New studies show they are born that way.”

Naturally, there are many who reject such an “offensive” notion. As but one example (given my lazy-ass Martian predisposition to stop after the first Google “hit”), see this 2017 article, “What planet are women from again?” by Stephanie Buck (tinyurl.com/What-Planet). She finds Gray’s approach “cosmically weird” and his “sexism ... downright laughable,” but explains how she persevered: “By the time I was halfway through [the book] I had softened to the grating gender stereotypes. As a woke millennial, I had trained myself to replace mentions of ‘man’ or ‘woman’ with the word ‘person.’”

So the “woke” envision both sexes as having evolved on the same red planet. And Beck implies that perhaps this truth has begun to sink into Gray’s gray matter: “Then in January 2017, Gray published a new book: *Beyond Mars and Venus: Relationship Skills for Today’s Complex World*. It’s a whole new set of rules for today’s woke relationships and relaxed gender roles.” But, alas, she makes clear that Gray still has a ways to go, since, “At worst, it’s a masochistic hate-read that makes you feel even more alone.”

Ouch! OK, let’s accept, for now, the woke premise that my title’s opening line is correct, and that Zontar’s home planet is *not* the origin of womankind writ large but only of Zsa Zsa Gabor and her merry maidens (tinyurl.com/Zsa-Zsa-Venus). Assuming the following single example (see my previous “lazy-ass” excuse) is representative, please ponder how well the woke position comports with this reasoning:

The former “Bruce” Jenner was born a “male” and lived “his” life as a “man” until transgendering into “Caitlyn,” who

now lives “her” life as a “woman” (though still a genetic “male” — the XY chromosomal pair in one’s cells cannot be changed to XX/female). What could have possessed Caitlyn to undergo this radical transformation? She was not raised as if a female. She grew up to be a tall, muscular man, so much so as to win an Olympic decathlon gold medal. She also married three times (all females/women) and fathered six children. And as she wrote in her memoir, with regard to any sexual attraction then or now toward males/men, “I have never had the inclination.”

So what *did* possess Caitlyn to be so certain that she was a woman — not a man — as to undergo not merely hormonal therapy but transformative surgery? As she told one interviewer, though she was living her life outwardly as Bruce, from early childhood “there was always this woman that lived inside of me” (tinyurl.com/Jenner-Always). And as she put it to another, “[It’s a] misperception that people transition because of their sexual desires. ... Transitioning is about nothing else but your soul” (tinyurl.com/Jenner-Soul).

Caitlyn’s references to the woman inhabiting her very soul certainly suggest having been born with a feminine brain housed within her formerly masculine body. Perhaps, despite the XY factory specs, one of God’s gestational helpers mistakenly painted her attic with an XXtra coat of estrogen after the downstairs plumbing had already been installed. Or, put another way (à la John Gray), perhaps her manly body came from Mars, but her womanly brain came from Venus.

Critical Thinking as Defined by the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking, 1987



Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.

In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness. It entails the examination of those structures or elements of thought implicit in all reasoning: purpose, problem, or question-at-issue; assumptions; concepts; empirical grounding; reasoning leading to conclusions; implications and consequences; objections from alternative viewpoints; and frame of reference.

Critical thinking — in being responsive to variable subject matter, issues, and purposes — is incorporated in a family of interwoven modes of thinking, among them: scientific thinking, mathematical thinking, historical thinking, anthropological thinking, economic thinking, moral thinking, and philosophical

From the Foundation for Critical Thinking