

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News



Vol. 8 No. 3, March, 2019
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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* TBCoR member

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

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See our event websites at:

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

This publication online at:

www.tampabaycor.net



Ryan Cragun & Hemant Mehta

A Conversation on **Darwin Day 2019** Sat. Mar. 16th 10AM

A new Political Dynamic:

The Evolving role of Atheists in Public life

"Atheists in Politics: Today and Tomorrow" is our subject. There are far more open atheists in public office than many people think. What does this mean for the life of our rapidly changing culture? How did they get elected, why does their atheism matter, and what can we learn from them in order to be successful in a very different future?

The dynamic implications for activism in a situation as fraught with peril and possibility as ours is not only a field for study and contemplation but a platform for vast changes in the human situation.

Come to the UU Octagon in Clearwater Mar. 16, at 10 AM at , 2470 Nursery Rd.

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

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

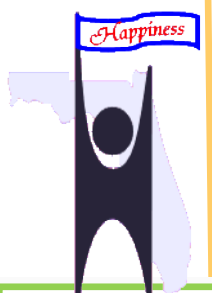
Hemant has appeared on CNN and FOX News (really). He has served on the board of directors for *Foundation Beyond Belief* (a charity organization targeting non-theistic donors) and the *Secular Student Alliance* (which supports college atheist groups nationwide).

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

Listen to Freethought Radio every Friday Afternoon at 2 PM

Atheists of Florida produces *Atheist Forum*, every week for information and opinion from a secular POV. The broadcast is available on WTAN-1340 and on the internet at TanTalk1340.com. Be sure to **call-in 727-441-3000**, with your questions and comments. See page [13](#) 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 [Humanists of Florida](#), the [AHA](#), [COR](#), & [ASHS](#). Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

Help Science Live!



Now more than ever, governmental support for scientific research is under threat. Thankfully, the Darwin Day resolutions, H. Res. 123 and S. Res. 63, have been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate for the seventh time since 2011 due to the hard work of the American Humanist Association's lobbying team. We are proud to work again with Representative Jim Himes (D-CT) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) to introduce the resolutions, which:

- State that evolution "provides humanity with a logical and intellectually compelling explanation for the diversity of life on Earth"
- Demand that the "advancement of science be protected from those unconcerned with the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change"
- Confirm that the "teaching of creationism in some public schools compromises the scientific and academic integrity of the United States' education systems"

These resolutions will only pass Congress if we have your help.

Can you take a moment right now to ask your Representative and Senators to co-sponsor these important resolutions?

Tampa Bay Harvest

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



Important !

For this meeting only, we will gather for the annual **Darwin Day Event on March 16th at 10 AM. See the front page for more details!**

Next regular meeting - April 13th.



Humanism takes a seat

American Humanist Association President Sunil Panikkath presented the AHA's 2019 University Award to the **University of Miami** in a public ceremony on February 6. The ceremony also commemorated the establishment of the [University of Miami's Endowed Chair for the Study of Atheism, Humanism, and Secular Ethics](#). The new chair position—made possible by a \$2.2 million endowment from the Louis J. Appignani Foundation—is the first of its kind in the United States, and was the predominant factor in AHA's decision to grant the award to the University of Miami. Continued on page [4](#)



Vol. XXXII No. 3 March, 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 : _____

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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

List of Fake News Websites:

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

The list:

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



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The Movable Feast

the Humanist Society's monthly social Dinner

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

Applebees

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

5110 E Bay Dr Clearwater, FL 33764

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

Laugh Lines From the Ironic Dictionary 3-19

SMILE: To expose a portion of one's skeleton as a gesture of goodwill toward a fellow human.

TESTICLE: A humorous question on an exam.

TRAILER PARKS: Latter-day gypsy camps scattered throughout the vast American hinterland; humble places of abode where hope dies young and tornadoes gravitate like flies to roadkill.

UNWED MOTHER: One who helps perpetuate the genes of an unwed father, without the latter's talent for becoming invisible at will.

VOTING: The right of our citizens to do as they please behind a curtain, as long as they do it alone.

WHITE SUPREMACISTS: The most convincing argument against the idea of white racial superiority.

WILLY-NILLY: Impotent.

X-RAY: A diagnostic tool used to detect existing cancerous growths and create new ones for future examinations to reveal.

Y-CHROMOSOME: A line of genes designed for men only; the cause of virility, war, baldness, hockey, sex crimes, clever inventions and a disinclination to ask for directions when lost.

ZOO: A pleasant and instructive wildlife park, lately denounced for depriving animals of their right to starve or be eaten alive in their natural habitats.

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

Joel Schmidt
www.floatoncounseling.com
321-604-7637



One of the essential elements of friendship — and of a healthy society — is the feeling of commonality. When we as individuals feel excessive difference from others our social connections fracture and we retreat into smaller and smaller circles: I think of these metaphorical circles as “tribes” that keep us divided and create competition and conflict.

Yes, contemporary tribalism is a major problem — just think about American politics and you will instantly know what I mean — but commonality has its pitfalls too: hate groups can be built on themes of commonality.

Still, we all need friendship and we all need human connections. We can’t survive or thrive as individuals or create any meaningful sense of identity without friends. In our polarized, fast-changing, aggressive society — one in which the “self” is always being made insecure by consumerism — personal identity is a fragile construction that needs to be defended and protected. Not surprisingly, identity is one of the leading themes of contemporary art.



We are living in a time of asynchrony: While technologically we are firmly in the 21st century, our world views are still characterized by ancient legends which are thousands of years old. This combination of high-level technical ability and highly naïve child-like beliefs could have disastrous consequences in the long run. We are behaving like five-year-olds who have been given responsibility for a jumbo jet.

A Seat for Humanism from page 2

Louis Appignani sees the chair as an academic milestone. “This chair establishes a precedent that puts atheism on equal footing with religion and gives academic credibility to atheism as a method of developing ethics,” said Appignani. “I expect the new chair to have very positive ramifications for secularism.”



Humanist Quotes

3/19

Humanism is a most human philosophy of life. Its emphasis is on the human, the here-and-now, the humane. It is not a religion and it has no formal creed, though humanists have beliefs. Humanists are atheists or agnostics and do not expect an afterlife. It is essential to humanism that it brings values and meaning into life.

Jim Herrick, [Humanism: an introduction](#)

Humanism in the modern sense of the term is the view that whatever your ethical system, it derives from your best understanding of human nature and the human condition in the real world. This means that it does not, in its thinking about the good and about our responsibilities to ourselves and one another, premise putative data from astrology, fairy tales, supernaturalist beliefs, animism, polytheism, or any other inheritances from the ages of humankind's remote and more ignorant past.

A C Grayling, [Against All Gods: Six Polemics on Religion and an Essay on Kindness](#)

There is no humanist creed, no set of beliefs to which every humanist has to subscribe. Humanism is not a dogma or a sect...as human beings we can find from our own resources the shared moral values which we need in order to live together, and the means to create meaningful and fulfilling lives for ourselves.

Richard Norman, [On Humanism \(Thinking in Action\)](#)

Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

North Tampa Public Library

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

March 16th Leader: **Jim Peterson**

This month we'll see you at the Darwin Day event in Clearwater.

See page 1

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



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



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

Trouble Ahead

By Brian Davey, PCI fellow

"The man who has anticipated the coming of troubles takes away their power when they arrive."

"Increases are of sluggish growth, but the way to ruin is rapid."

These two quotes from the Roman philosopher Seneca sum up in a nutshell the themes of a talk I gave in Nottingham. The talk was given in late 2018 and it is now 2019. Everywhere I looked signs indicating that there would be a "Happy New Year" were in short supply. The climate news always seems more dramatic with extreme weather events. The stock market is very volatile – as if market players could not decide whether the trend was still upwards or is now downward. International tension between nuclear armed powers is rising, and politicians and military men are acting recklessly.

It is the role of the priests is to predict the future – that includes the economic priests. Their holy rite is to create a forecast for "risk-taking entrepreneurs" to use when making their investment decisions and for governments to use when formulating their policies.

However, part of the grim character of today's situation is the overwhelming complexity – of ecological, economic, social and political processes. The more complex the more unpredictable. There are many interlinked sources of potential instability that could reverberate around the globe – and stability has been undermined by the fragility of the economic system, the fragility of the political system and the fragility of the ecological system. Instead of the financial and economic system having the resources to withstand shocks it is deeply in debt. More credit creation in response to shocks does not seem desirable or possible – indeed an indebted economy that suffers shocks is in a dangerous state as one bankruptcy can lead to another. Meanwhile, instead of the ecological system being robust it has seen natural capital buffers eroded – for example, while ice sheets in the Arctic are melting the energy from climate change goes into this melting process. Once the ice has gone, without a buffer, the heat will rise more rapidly.

Expediting the inevitable – but what is inevitable?

In the apparently simpler world of two hundred years ago, the foreign minister of Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles Maurice de Talleyrand (1754–1838) could opine wisely like a Taoist sage that "The art of statesmanship is to foresee the inevitable and to expedite its occurrence." It sounds good until you realize that it begs the question of how you can foresee what is inevitable.

Inevitability usually appears with greatest clarity only in retrospect and political conflict always takes the form of contest about what form the future will take. Groups with an agenda try to convince people with a rhetoric that implies inevitability for their aspirations. The neo-liberal worship of the great God "Free (ie unregulated) Markets", and an ideological campaign for their quasi-religion waged over several decades which corresponded to the rise of debt and the finance sector, created a temporary mainstream consensus, at least among the chattering classes, of TINA – for "There Is No Alternative". If there is no alternative to something it is inevitable. That's the apparent logic even if it turns out not to be true.

Scenarios of the Future

One way of envisaging the future is to think about it using "scenarios" – alternative visions of the future based on alternative assumptions.

For example, assuming the future as a continuation of current trends and policies – not just business as usual, but increased growth causing depletion of resources and/or pollution. This is the economic growth perspective held by the economic and political mainstream in which technologies brings more people more powerful toys to buy in the shops of a consumer society.

Another scenario is like the above but with some ecologically inspired

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.

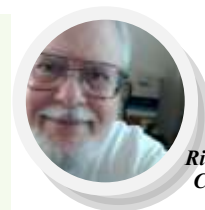
Monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd floor of MOSI in the Science Works Theater, & take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Meetings are free & open to the public.

Details & RSVP:

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



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



Rick O'Keefe,
Coordinator

Some of March's activities are:

- * Clearwater—17th Annual Darwin Day
- * Brandon—Skeptics Brunch
- * N. Pinellas—CFI Supper Club
- * Clearwater—CFI SHARE Book Club
- * Thank Goodness 4 Godless Friday Nights
- * Howard's Skeptics Corner
- * 2+ astronomy clubs' meetings
- * Tampa Bay Tech Center many activities
- * And more at <http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I>

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



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

The Council for Secular Humanism: The mission of the Council for Secular Humanism is to advocate and defend a nonreligious lifescape rooted in science, naturalistic philosophy, and humanist ethics and to serve and support adherents of that lifescape. The Council is North America's leading organization for non-religious people. A not-for-profit educational corporation, the Council supports a wide range of activities to meet the needs of people who find meaning and value in life without looking to a religion. Its activities range from magazine publishing and campaigning on ethical issues to holding conferences and supporting a network of autonomous local groups.

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

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



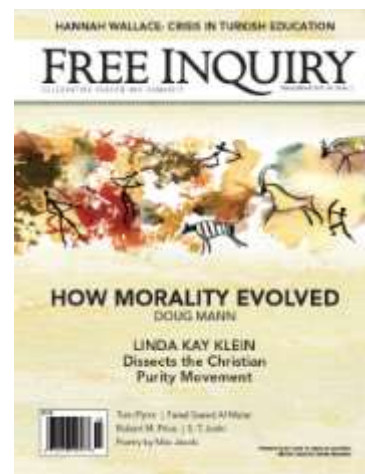
The Morning Heresy is your **daily digest** of news and links relevant to the secular and skeptic communities. What you wouldn't otherwise know.



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

TEACHER INSTITUTE FOR EVOLUTIONARY SCIENCE (TIES)

Provides middle school teachers
the tools they need
to effectively teach evolution.





**17
years in
Florida**



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

Affirmations of Humanism

A Statement of Principles

Drafted by Paul Kurtz

1. We are committed to the application of reason and science to the understanding of the universe and to the solving of human problems.
2. We deplore efforts to denigrate human intelligence, to seek to explain the world in supernatural terms, and to look outside nature for salvation.
3. We believe that scientific discovery and technology can contribute to the betterment of human life.
4. 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.
5. We are committed to the principle of the separation of church and state.
6. We cultivate the arts of negotiation and compromise as a means of resolving differences and achieving mutual understanding.
7. We are concerned with securing justice and fairness in society and with eliminating discrimination and intolerance.
8. We believe in supporting the disadvantaged and the handicapped so that they will be able to help themselves.
9. We attempt to transcend divisive parochial loyalties based on race, religion, gender, nationality, creed, class, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, and strive to work together for the common good of humanity.
10. We want to protect and enhance the earth, to preserve it for future generations, and to avoid inflicting needless suffering on other species.

11. We believe in enjoying life here and now and in developing our creative talents to their fullest.
12. We believe in the cultivation of moral excellence.
13. We respect the right to privacy. Mature adults should be allowed to fulfill their aspirations, to express their sexual preferences, to exercise reproductive freedom, to have access to comprehensive and informed health-care, and to die with dignity.
14. We believe in the common moral decencies: altruism, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, responsibility. Humanist ethics is amenable to critical, rational guidance. There are normative standards that we discover together. Moral principles are tested by their consequences.
15. We are deeply concerned with the moral education of our children. We want to nourish reason and compassion.
16. We are engaged by the arts no less than by the sciences.
17. We are citizens of the universe and are excited by discoveries still to be made in the cosmos.
18. We are skeptical of untested claims to knowledge, and we are open to novel ideas and seek new departures in our thinking.
19. We affirm humanism as a realistic alternative to theologies of despair and ideologies of violence and as a source of rich personal significance and genuine satisfaction in the service to others.
20. We believe in optimism rather than pessimism, hope rather than despair, learning in the place of dogma, truth instead of ignorance, joy rather than guilt or sin, tolerance in the place of fear, love instead of hatred, compassion over selfishness, beauty instead of ugliness, and reason rather than blind faith or irrationality.
21. We believe in the fullest realization of the best and noblest that we are capable of as human beings.

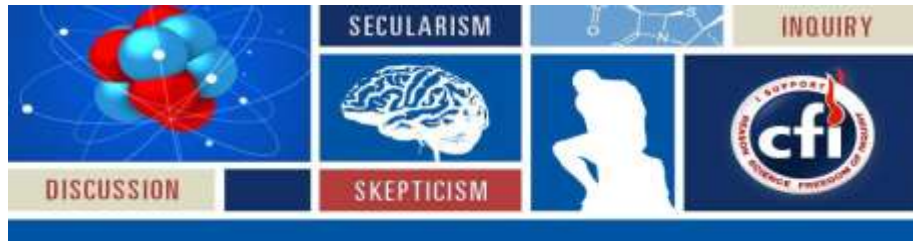
You can [purchase](#) your own copy of the Affirmations of Humanism on parchment, suitable for framing, for just \$4.95.

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



Click below

JOIN NOW



Special freethought days in March:

- ◇ International Women's Day, March 8
- ◇ Pi Day, March 14
- ◇ Freedom of Information Day (USA), March 16
- ◇ Sunshine Week (USA), March 16-22
- ◇ Spring Equinox, March 20

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 the book before attending. Not a member? Join: <http://bit.ly/2pTDfEj>)

3/23 *The Gulf: The Making of An American Sea* by Jack E. Davis <https://amzn.to/2UbZFe0>

4/27 *Black Rednecks and White Liberals* by Thomas Sowell <https://amzn.to/2FWbwci>

Uncovering the Planetary Ethic

There is increasing recognition of the need for a Planetary Ethic (for example, the urgent call by Paul Kurtz). Western civil society is based, it may be argued, more on consensus of behaviours than values. Appeals for behavioural outcomes (road safety, anti-violence campaigns) seldom explicate fundamental principles. Given this, even the partial success achieved in creating 'decent' society is striking. Reasons include common assumptions between Humanists, Jews and Christians; and widespread, though unarticulated, popular acceptance of some version of utilitarianism.

Increasing numbers in western nations from non-western religious backgrounds, and globalisation in general, are forcing cultures into closer proximity. Some seem able to co-exist more or less happily, whilst others raise major issues due to different world-views. We might reasonably suspect the western consensus is close to its limit in creating a harmonious civil society, let alone a global civilisation that respects contributions of all people.

CHURCH AND STATE

Living in the Anthropocene: Toward a New Global Ethos

"A decade ago, Nobel Prize-winning scientist Paul Crutzen first suggested we were living in the "Anthropocene," a new geological epoch in which humans had altered the planet. Now, in an article for Yale Environment 360, Crutzen and a coauthor explain why adopting this term could help transform the perception of our role as stewards of the Earth.

"Imagine our descendants in the year 2200 or 2500. They might liken us to aliens who have treated the Earth as if it were a mere stopover for refueling, or even worse, characterize us as barbarians who would ransack their own home. Living up to the Anthropocene means building a culture that grows with Earth's biological wealth instead of depleting it. Remember, in this new era, nature is us."

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.

Cfi Welcomes New UN Advocate: Andreas Kyriacou



The Center for Inquiry has held special **consultative status with the United Nations** since 2005, allowing us to advance our mission on the world stage, form alliances with like-minded international organizations, deliver public addresses to an audience of diplomats and delegations, and sometimes even stir up a little trouble when needed.

Our UN representatives have the responsibility of giving voice to our international mission and our deeply held values, and that responsibility has been held by our president and CEO Robyn Blumner, allied activists such as Raheel Raza, Josephine Macintosh, and Elizabeth O'Casey, and former CFI UN Representative Michael De Dora.

We're excited to announce that **Andreas Kyriacou** has been tapped to be the official UN Advocate for the Center for Inquiry. Andreas has deep roots in the European secular and skeptic movements, as president of the Freethinkers Association of Switzerland, founder and coordinator of the Switzerland chapter of Camp Quest, and founder of the Denkfest international science festival.

We're looking forward to working with Andreas as he brings his passion and expertise to CFI's international efforts.

Shining Light On Reality

By **Jamie Hale**, Full article: <http://bit.ly/2GV2KvP>

We are bombarded with information on a daily basis. It is often said we live in the information age, but we also live in the misinformation age. How do we decide what qualifies as knowledge and what qualifies as nonsense?

Maybe there are no wrong or right answers but just opinions. Those promoting a multiplist epistemology suggest there are multiple points of view, multiple beliefs that are not necessarily better or worse than other beliefs (Kuhn 2001). This notion is fallacious. There are facts and opinions, right and wrong answers.

There is a reality that extends beyond personal comforts and opinions (Mitchell and Jolley 2010). Virtually everyone agrees that reality exists. Even if there is no objective reality, we have no choice but to accept the "idea of reality" (some have suggested an approximation of reality), as it is necessary for everyday living and understanding the world.

Scientific thinkers, philosophers, and theologians promote different views of reality. Scientific thinkers and philosophers may share common ideas (at times), while those adhering to supernatural explanations perpetuate claims that drastically deviate from the rules, principles, theories, and foundations that support naturalism.

A naturalistic worldview asserts nature is all there is; all actions are in the domain of nature. Even those who claim belief in entities beyond nature often act as if they subscribe to a naturalistic worldview; they look to science and technology often. It is only on occasion that the answer they wish for is outside of nature.

The Biology Behind Placebo Effects

By **Jamie Hale**, Full article <http://bit.ly/2GXYoUI>

Common statements heard when discussing placebo effects include "it's not real; it's the placebo effect" or "it's just in your head." Each of these statements reflects the belief that placebo effects aren't beneficial or are worthless.

This is an erroneous viewpoint; placebo effects often produce robust psychological and physiological effects that are very real. Placebo-induced effects influence behavior and a variety of experiences.

It can be expected that the benefits obtained from *any* treatment are at least partially due to placebo effects.

"Subjects typically know they are getting some kind of treatment, and so we may rarely be able to measure the actual effects of a drug by itself. Instead, we see the effects of treatment plus placebo effects that are shaped by the subjects' expectations. We then compare those effects with the effects of placebo alone" (Myers and Hansen 2002).

It is important to avoid explaining the variation in outcome of those receiving placebo as strictly a placebo effect, as other variables may also be involved with the outcome. As an example, consider the common misconception in how the term *placebo effect* is defined in the context of a standard clinical trial.



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!](#)



From *Tampa Bay Skeptics Report*, Vol. 9 No. 1 Summer 1996
Chairman's Corner by **Terry A. Smiljanich** Full article <http://bit.ly/2tBtqcV>

Life After Death

While waiting in a supermarket check-out line the other day, I perused the various publications for sale prominently displayed all around me. "Messages from the Dead," "Reincarnation of Dali Lama," "Faces of Angels in Distant Galaxy," "Embraced by the Light" -- all beckoned to the shopper with promises of life after death.

Is there any more central desire than the perpetuation of self? Hundreds of thousands of years ago, ancestral Homo sapiens was already preparing its dead with artifacts for the next world. The common denominator in almost all religions (I can't think of one exception) is a promise that death is not an end, but a beginning. Who among us, skeptic or otherwise, has not faced the loss of someone close and desperately desired to believe that a happy hunting ground awaits us all?

Carl Sagan, a fellow of CSICOP and co-founder of the Planetary Society, wrote in the March 10 issue of *Parade* magazine (which reaches millions of Sunday readers) about his own very personal "near-death" experience. He was diagnosed with myelodysplasia, a bone marrow disease that is fatal within six months unless a successful marrow transplant can be performed. Luckily for Dr. Sagan, his sister was a perfect bone marrow match and, after several procedures, his disease appears to have been cured.

Through it all, Sagan never waived from his firm belief that, should he succumb to the disease, he would simply cease to exist. How, he was asked, could he face death without the certainty of an afterlife? In explaining his ability to find comfort elsewhere, he quotes (who else?) Albert Einstein:

"I cannot conceive of a god who rewards and punishes his creatures or has a will of the kind that we experience in ourselves. Neither can I -- nor would I want to -- conceive of an individual that survives his physical death. Let feeble souls, from fear or absurd egotism, cherish such thoughts. I am satisfied with the mystery of the eternity of life and a glimpse of the marvelous structure of the existing world, together with the devoted striving to comprehend a portion, be it ever so tiny, of the Reason that manifests itself in nature."

Einstein's views come close to Spinoza's rationalist and naturalistic theology (but not religion) which finds justification for a "god" without the need for either a willful creator or an afterlife. Small comfort here for "feeble souls" looking to perpetuate their egos.

As we skeptics face down the psychics and fortune-tellers, and attempt to educate the public in the importance of critical thinking, we need to recognize how deep-seated the opposition is to our message. Science is so unpopular at the check-out counter because it offers scant consolation to a person facing an indifferent universe. The religious impetus is much stronger than rational thinking will ever be. Thus, for every would-be psychic feat we "debunk," a hundred explanations and excuses will be offered, and few minds will change.

It is the chance, however, that those "few" may be willing to take the lesson from the incessant failures of psychic claims and then look for meaning and beauty in this indifferent universe, that makes it worthwhile through it.



Committee for Skeptical Inquiry

promotes science and scientific inquiry, critical thinking, science education,

and the use of reason in examining important issues. It encourages the critical investigation of controversial or extraordinary claims from a responsible, scientific point of view and disseminates factual information about the results of such inquiries to the scientific community, the media, and the public. *Click the magazine cover logo to subscribe.*

Blind belief can be comforting, but it can easily cripple reason and productivity, and stop intellectual progress.

~ James Randi

From the
TBS
Archives,
1984:

BBC & Nova
promote ESP
With no
regard for
valid studies.

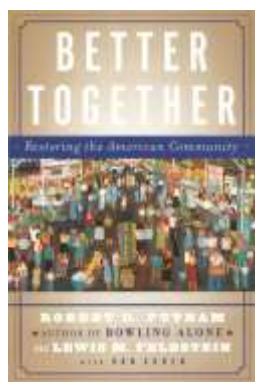
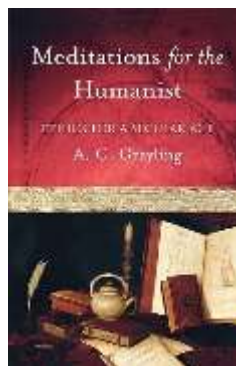
Get the Bank of Wisdom—*FREE*. Contact [Marios Psomas](#), Librarian

Recommended Reading

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

"Magnanimity is in short supply," writes A. C. Grayling in this wonderfully incisive book, "but it is the main ingredient in everything that makes the world a better place" And indeed *Meditations for the Humanist: Ethics for a Secular Age* is itself a generous, insightful, wide-ranging, magnanimous inquiry into the philosophical and ethical questions that bear most strongly on the human condition.

Containing nearly fifty linked commentaries on topics ranging from love, lying, perseverance, revenge, racism, religion, history, loyalty, health, and leisure, *Meditations for the Humanist* does not offer definitive statements but rather prompts to reflection.



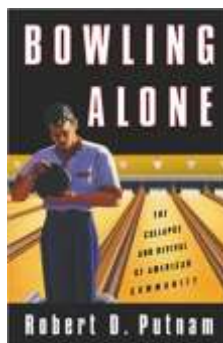
BetterTogether was an initiative of the Saguaro Seminar: Civic Engagement in America at Harvard University. The Saguaro Seminar issued the report *Better Together*, in December of 2000, calling for a nationwide campaign to redirect a downward spiral of civic apathy.

Warning that the national stockpile of "social capital" – our reserve of personal bonds and fellowship – is seriously depleted, the report outlined the framework for sustained, broad-based social change to restore America's civic virtue. Launched by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, the Saguaro Seminar drew its 30 participants from academia, the arts, clergy, business and the top leaders and policymakers of both major political parties. Saguaro members studied the essential character of public participation in their effort to develop remedies to redirect a decades-long decline.

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community is a groundbreaking book based on vast data, Robert D. Putnam shows how we have become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors, and our democratic structures– and how we may reconnect. Putnam warns that our stock of social capital – the very fabric of our connections with each other, has plummeted, impoverishing our lives and communities.

Putnam draws on evidence including nearly 500,000 interviews over the last quarter century to show that we sign fewer petitions, belong to fewer organizations that meet, know our neighbors less, meet with friends less frequently, and even socialize with our families less often. We're even bowling alone. More Americans are bowling than ever before, but they are not bowling in leagues. Putnam shows how changes in work, family structure, age, suburban life, television, computers, women's roles and other factors have contributed to this decline.

America has civically reinvented itself before — approximately 100 years ago at the turn of the last century. And America can civically reinvent itself again – find out how and help make it happen at our companion page *Better Together*, an initiative of the Saguaro Seminar on Civic Engagement at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



The Matt Cooper

Humanist Lending Library

Humanist Society members can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to marios_psomas@hotmail.com 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 Malcom Gladwell
36. Sway Ori, Rom Brafman
37. The Better Angels of our Nature Steven Pinker
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian Christopher Hitchens
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded Thomas Friedman
40. Gaming the Vote William Poundstone
41. Subversion Fable Alexa KcKearing
43. Evolution and the Big Question David Stamos
44. Why People Believe Weird Things Michael Shermer
45. The World is Curved David Snick
46. The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
47. The Moral Landscape Sam Harris
48. How We Believe Michael Shermer
49. Full House Steven Jay Gould
50. The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain Harriet Smith, Editor
53. Science Friction Michael Shermer
54. Genius James Gleick
55. Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
56. Demon Haunted World Carl Sagan
57. Being Right Is Not Enough Paul Waldman
58. Loser Takes All Mark Crispin Miller
59. Taking Back Politics Cathy Allen
60. Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
63. 12 Vol Complete Works Robert Ingersoll
64. On Religious Liberty Roger Williams & Davis
65. The God Makers Baker & Hunt
66. Inevitable Illusions M. Piattelli-Palmarini
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
69. Bonk Mary Roach
70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
73. Best American Non required Reading Dave Eagers
74. Reporting at Wit's End St. Clair McKelway
75. Corporations are not People Clements
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president? Cragun – Phillips
77. Culture of Honor Nisbett – Cohen
78. Rot on the Vine Stenes
79. Thoughts of a Freethinker New Kaye * Essential works
80. An Atheist Stranger by Herb Silverman
81. Candidate without a prayer- Herb Silverman

Evolve Fish is a source for freethought paraphernalia:

<http://evolvefish.com/>

To access more Freethought history & perspectives,
Frank Prah's Freethought Library fpahl77@gmail.com



The mission of the [Secular Coalition for Florida](#) is to increase the visibility of & respect for non-theistic view-points in the State, & to protect & strengthen the



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

Bill Norsworthy, is our Florida representative.

Please sign up [here](#).

Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, & appreciated!

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

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

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com

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.



**FOUNDATION
BEYOND BELIEF**

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



Help us

Help Children



Go to
<http://bit.ly/AOFHelp>

UU Humanists of Clearwater

at 2470 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater.

Usually every 3rd Sunday at 12:30 to 1:30 pm, after UU services,
Join us on Darwin day, the 16th. At 10 AM. See pg. 1 We're the place to be!



University of South Florida Humanities Institute

What is American Cuisine?



Paul Freedman

Mar. 18-22 -
Scholar-in-Residence:
Free Lecture
Mar. 21 - Lecture 7:30

Location: [Armature Works](#) (1910 N. Ola Ave. Tampa, FL 33602)



The Crafty Freethinker ...

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



Our anxious Readers

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A Humanist Discussion group in East Tampa !



UU Humanists of Tampa

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Atheists of Florida,



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

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

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



The Atheist Forum



Fridays 2 to 3 pm.

The broadcast is available **on the internet at TanTalk1340.com**, live streaming on smart phones using the "**TuneIn**" application, www.youtube.com/atheistforum and on the following frequencies in the Tampa Bay area –

WTAN AM 1340, WZHR AM 1400, WDCF AM 1350, WTAN FM 106.1, and WZHR FM 104.3.

Listeners can **call 727-441-3000**, where four lines await your call in of questions and comments. All programs are being archived on the AoF web site, www.aof.ngo. Tune in!

Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel

 **iTunes**



March Events

[Find details by clicking here](#)

Mar 5th

Invocation at
Clearwater
cityhall 6 PM
TracyThomas

meetup

Be sure to check for
changes and RSVP!

Mar 16th

**Darwin
Day**

See page 1

Mar 17th

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

Why is the FL Legislature giving our tax money to churches? Also, other questionable proposals for 2019

Annually, Atheists of Florida monitors proposed legislation for Florida. While the session doesn't begin until March 5th, there have already been almost 3000 bills filed before the senate and the house.

What are we looking for? Legislation that allows or encourages the intrusion of religion into government or citizens personal lives, bills that give tax payer dollars directly to religious institutions, and bills that prevent/minimize religious intrusion. **For a list of all the bills we are tracking, visit our website:**

<https://www.atheistsofflorida.org/florida-legislation-2019/> If you know of a bill that we are missing, please let me know at, admin@atheistsofflorida.org.

What you can do to help ensure that the FI and US constitutions are observed. If you see a bill that you are concerned about (either ensuring passage or opposing passage) please contact your representative or senator.

Not sure who represents you? – you can find out here:

Senate - <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators>

House - <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/myrepresentative.aspx>.

Here are some of the problematic bills...

Bills that allow religious intrusion:

Requiring each school to offer an elective course on the study of the bible and religion (HB 195)

Educational standards that require teaching of controversial subjects in a "balanced" manner (SB 330).

And at least two bills that would restrict a woman's reproductive health choices (SB 558, SB 792 and HB 235).

Bills that give money directly to religious institutions:

Two bills that provide funding for security at Jewish Day Schools (HB 2105 and HB 2277).

A bill to provide funding of a church expansion (because their membership has grown) (HB 2771).

A church wants funds to offer an alternative event for Halloween (HB 2137).

A church wants money to fix their parking lot (HB 3865).

And finally, a few bills that would minimize intrusion:

A bill that brings Florida into compliance with marriage equality (SB 254 and HB 6009)

Prohibits conversion therapy for children (SB 84 and HB 109);

Requires public schools to teach sex education based on science (SB 926 and HB 703).

JMA

Reasoned Rage over Blackface?

By Gary P. Posner

Both sides of my family are of Jewish lineage. I was fortunately spared any discernible discrimination, unlike my mother, who absorbed “dirty Jew” taunts throughout her school years. Jews constitute only about 2% of the U.S. population, vs. 18% for African-Americans, and though as a people we have never been enslaved in this country, we know what happened in 1940s’ Europe and what will happen should Iran ever decide to trigger its “Death to Israel” policy. But if a button-nosed actor or actress were tasked to play the role of a Jewish historical figure whose stereotypical nose was unmistakable, not only would I be fine with an appropriate “schnoz” as part of the makeup, I would likely otherwise find the portrayal laughably absurd.

Enter, stage right, Billy Crystal, and his numerous spot-on impersonations, on *Saturday Night Live* and elsewhere, of Sammy Davis, Jr., who used to quip about himself, “I’m a member of five minority groups. I’m a short, ugly, one-eyed, black Jew.” Crystal, the antithesis of a racist, is not particularly tall, and would adopt Davis’ voice, mannerisms, and facial characteristics to a T, along with makeup to “uglify” and deeply darken his complexion. This all took place repeatedly during the 1980s (not the ’50s), but he was not hounded out of show business for this unpardonable offense.

Aileen Wuornos was a “Monster” — the name of the 2003 biopic starring Charlize Theron, one of the most beautiful women on the planet. Often a serial killer will target prostitutes, but Wuornos was a prostitute who serially murdered her johns. In the months preparing for the part, Theron doffed her swanlike grace in favor of Wuornos’ swagger, and packed on 30 pounds by bingeing on donuts. Prior to each day’s shooting, makeup artists marred her face and defiled her teeth. Her physical transformation into “monster” Wuornos was uncanny, but not terribly dissimilar to millions of girls across the country not blessed with beauty. I am unaware of youths committing suicide in significant numbers as a result of cyberbullying for being black, but there has been much national attention devoted to such problems due to ugly- and fat-shaming. So it was only natural that Theron was rightly ostracized from society for such egregious insensitivity. No, wait. Sorry about that. I just looked it up, and it seems she was awarded that year’s best-actress Oscar!

But the times they are a-changin’ and early February of this year was particularly troublesome for

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. Many who took no issue with his endorsement of extremely late-term and even postpartum abortions, and who accepted (at least pending further evidence) his shaky denials about the KKK and blackface yearbook photos, just had to draw the line at his admission to having at least once before, in the 1980s, adorned a bit of blackface. That this was part of a Michael Jackson impersonation for a dance competition — for which Northam had also learned the “moonwalk” — seems to matter not a whit. His efforts won him that contest, but many of his own Democratic Party allies are now demanding his exit from public office.

And just a few days after Northam’s admission, his state’s Attorney General, Mark Herring, apologetically acknowledged that, in 1980 as a 19-year-old, he had dressed as a rapper for a costume party. Had blackface not been part of the apparel, his impersonation might have seemed as authentic as lily-white Pat Boone’s cringeworthy cover of Little Richard’s “Tutti Frutti.” No matter. Throw the bastard to the wolves.

Nazi Germany’s depictions of Jews as hooked-nosed vermin, and segregated America’s grotesquely exaggerated black caricatures, were concocted in crucibles of cruelty and hatred, and weaponized in order to dehumanize. Reason reveals, however, the fundamental differences between those abominations and Crystal’s Davis, Northam’s Jackson, and Herring’s rapper. Ditto Theron’s “monster.” Double-ditto the hysteria over children’s Halloween costumes!

In my experience, even walking on eggshells isn’t a sufficient path toward avoiding “offending” some person, gender, race, or even an entire subspecies (in this sentence, chickens). Anyone can proclaim offense to almost anything in a world in which common sense becomes a criminal offense. As I write this, I am hearing — I kid you not — of a lesbian (Julia Beck) recently being booted off of a Baltimore LGBTQ mayoral commission for having committed an act of “violence.” The nature of her “violence”? She persisted in using the pronoun “he” during the group’s discussion about a convicted rapist who, by claiming to self-identify (without actually transitioning) as female, got himself incarcerated in a prison where, surprise surprise, he proceeded to rape two female inmates.

The year 1984 may have come and gone with nary a whiff of Orwell’s fictional thought police, but 30-something years later, Heather Mac Donald’s *The Diversity Delusion* reads far more frighteningly. Employing black-and-white thinking about blackface (and the rest) blinds one to the gray zones wherein reason resides.

Freethought News and its editors welcome well-reasoned opinion pieces and responses, as well as your original articles, observations, and paid advertisement. We reserve the right to edit submissions or to not print them. All submissions must be signed and contain contact information, and not be copyrighted material by other creators.

Tampa Bay Thinkers



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

Monday, March 11, 2019

Topic: *Gun Violence:*

How can we stop it?

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/HumanistFamiliesTampa/).

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



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



Tampa Bay Technology Center & Thinkers Salon



We repair our member's computers - Free!

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

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

Find us at:
www.tampa-bay.org

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

Tampa Bay CoR

TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

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

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

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

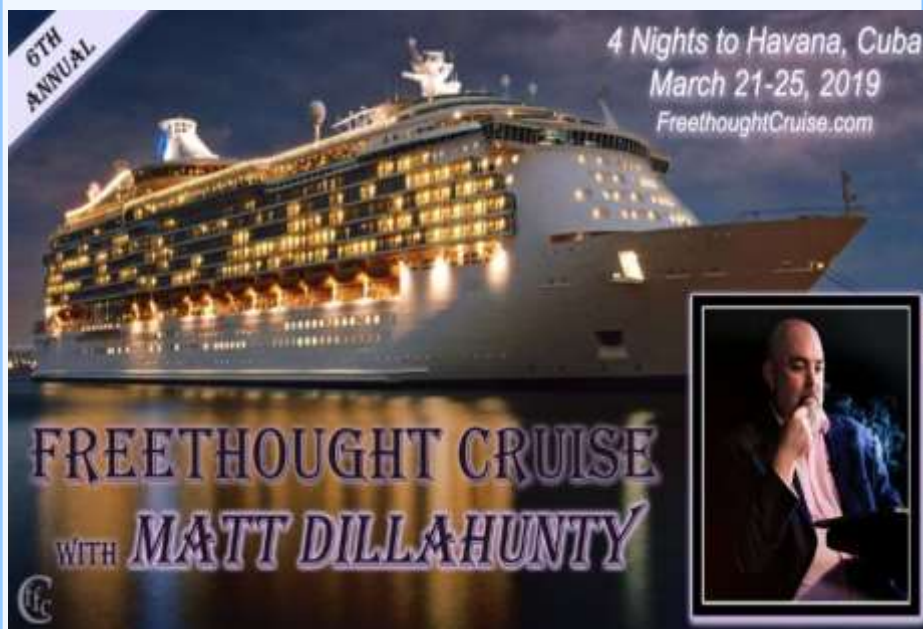
We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason & its director, Sarah Levin.

You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected in Tampa Bay & across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God. Millions are!"

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

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

Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net
Or see, <http://tampabaycor.org/>
Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>



Mar 21-25, 2019

Freethought Cruise to Cuba with Matt Dillahunty

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

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

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

CRUISE DETAILS

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

Sponsored by *Central Florida Freethought Community*



TBCoR Leadership Team 2019

Judy Adkins, Bill Norsworthy, Mark Brandt, Chris Brown, Jenn Hancock, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson - Facilitator
 AoF UUCH UUCH MAF GTBHF CFI, TBS HSS, TBPCC
 Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net CoR Facilitator

Continued on page [17](#)**Trouble Ahead** from page 5

policies and adaptations made in democratic processes to respond to the ecological crisis.

Another scenario is an accentuation of current trends to inequality in which the depletion of resources are cornered by a tiny elite who are protecting themselves and a privileged lifestyle from the rest of the population by gated communities and walled cities – and heavy security arrangements and imposed order that excludes most people.

Then there is a possible future which is of generalized chaos and ruin – the 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse – a generalization of what is happening in Syria plus uncontrolled diseases – as political and military adventures and oppressive conditions create ideal environments for the proliferation of untreatable diseases.

A scenario based on abrupt climate change has sea level change, drought and flood producing radical declines in food harvests, economic collapse and rapid rises in the death rate.

Finally, there are growing geo-political tensions and nuclear war. One scenario is of the ruling elite blaming foreign powers for the growing problems at home – for example blaming unrest and breakdowns of infrastructure on “Russian interference” to displace unrest and blame away from themselves – while seeking using military strategy abroad to try to secure access to dwindling energy and other resources.

Of course these scenarios are artificially separated by the telling whereas each of them may unfold in different geographical spaces simultaneously and/or at different times.

Whatever happens, it is unwise to make predictions that are highly precise. The current situation is characterized by one thing above all else – uncertainty. This is inevitably so because of the highly interconnected character of the ecological, economic, social and political arrangements, and they are all under strain. It is not just that there are many problems – it is that all these problems are highly interrelated and thus have multiple potential knock on consequences for other parts of the ecological, economic, social and political system. That is why there is also a creeping paralysis of the political system – a swamp in which policy makers get bogged down.



post carbon institute



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
Sarasota, Florida

Saturday, March 4th --Sherry H. Penny, Author and Professor from the University of Massachusetts, Boston (originally scheduled for Dec. 3, 2018) Presenting: "Still Stuck: Women in the 21st Century

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

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



Fairness in the Change

Management Process

I am a big fan of evidence based decision making. And fortunately - there is a group that dedicates itself to answering questions about business management problems by reviewing the literature and publishing an Evidence Summary of what the literature says works.

The website Science for Work recently published an Evidence Summary titled: Why you should consider fairness when designing your change management process see: <https://scienceforwork.com/blog/fairness-change-management/>

Fairness in the workplace has many different metrics - but it's associated with justice. According to the summary it is indeed beneficial to consider fairness in your decision making. "While the research we reviewed does not support causal conclusions, it does indicate that there is a noticeable relationship between different types of fairness and a variety of organizational outcomes."

Or to put that in plain English, "In addition to moral or ethical reasons for seeking fairness during an organizational change, you may also want to add effectiveness to your argument."

Another key finding is that, "procedural fairness is the strongest predictor of many outcomes, and particularly stands out in relation to work performance." Procedural fairness is whether the decision making process is fair or not.

If you want to help people feel more satisfaction with outcomes, you will want to make sure there is distributive fairness meaning the outcomes of the decision are seen as fair.

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

Thanks and take care. *Jennifer*

Piteous jocularity #739:

Helvetica and Times New Roman walk into a bar.

"Get out of here!" shouts the bartender. "We don't serve your type."



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – March, 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 Night	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 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 11.	
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 <i>10 paid-up CFI members.</i> 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	

2019 Freethought Cruise

Nassau-Cuba itinerary. For more details: P. [16](#) or, www.freethoughtcruise.com. Departs March 21.



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