

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News



Vol. 8 No. 9, September, 2019
Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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Creationist heads state Education Board

Florida's State Board of Education recently announced a new chairman: **Andy Tuck** pictured below.



When he was first appointed to the board, in 2014 by then-Gov. **Rick Scott**, Tuck was just a citrus grower who previously served on the School Board of Highlands County. He was a typical GOP nominee, supporting charter schools and vouchers. No big shock. But when he was on that local school board in 2008, he opposed the teaching of evolution as a "fact" in the state's new science standards.

School Board Vice Chairman Andy Tuck said Thursday, "as a person of faith, I strongly oppose any study of evolution as fact at all. I'm purely in favor of it staying a theory and only a theory.

"I won't support any evolution being taught as fact at all in any of our schools."
To be clear, scientists describe evolution as a "theory" because all the available

Continued on Page 5

American Ethical Union Resolves to Defend the Right to Vote



The American Ethical Union passed an important resolution on voting rights (proposed by the Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society). We urge all "to take personal and collective action to reclaim our Democracy by affirming our shared commitment to the Democratic Process as essential to a humane social order which respects the worth of all persons and therefore requires a fair and just process, which elicits and allows a greater expression of human capacities."

The Resolution addresses many obstacles to voting including voter suppression tactics, restrictive registration processes, criminal disenfranchisement, limited access to polls, gerrymandering, financial influences, and foreign intrusion. It encourages people to educate themselves, protect the right to vote, and vote their values. "When the voices of the People are silenced, our Democracy perishes."

Read the full "Defending the Right to Vote" resolution at: <https://aeu.org/resource/2019-defending-the-right-to-vote>

About the American Ethical Union
The AEU creates, nurtures, and inspires ethical humanist communities to foster a world that is democratic, compassionate, just, and sustainable. We recognize the unique worth of each individual; we act to elicit the best in others and in ourselves; and we have faith in the human capacity to create a better world. The Ethical Culture Movement began in 1876 and developed the AEU in 1889. AEU news.

AEU needs someone to organize a chapter in Tampa, site of the recent national conference. If you are interested, contact: nsdt@aeu.org

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

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.

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



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

September, 2019

Vol. XXXII No. 9

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

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



Please Join 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,

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

If new, please fill out the form; if renewing just indicate your name & any changes from your previous information Thanks!

Name: _____

Address –if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: * _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send check made out to:

"Jim Peterson"

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

Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
6814 Charlotte Harbor Way
Tampa FL 33625



Food

The staff of life,

How will we feed ourselves as the world continues to change?

The global food system can be defined as the "production, processing, and distribution of food throughout the world."

Food security for an individual within this global food system is characterized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as having the following four dimensions: availability of food, economic and physical access to food, food utilization to reach a state of nutritional well-being, and the stability of the previous three dimensions over time. However, our current food system is rife with inequalities and issues that prevent adequate food security for all, and have

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.

consequences for individuals as well as our global environment.

Here are some interesting food facts to consider:

More profits in fuel than Food: The World Resources Institute (WRI) reports that "producing 10% of all transport fuels from biofuels by 2050, as planned by some governments, would require 32% of global crop production but produce only 2% of global energy," while also increasing the "food gap to roughly 100%."

Food Insecurity: Worldwide, about 795 million people suffer from chronic undernourishment, and about 15% of households in the U.S. lack food to some degree.

Unsustainable Farming Practices: Big agribusinesses utilize poor agricultural practices to cut production costs, and, due to these practices, 5-10 million hectares of arable farmland become unusable every year, with an additional 0.3-1.5 million becoming unproductive as a result of salinization and water logging.

But there is more; much more: We are heading to an unavoidable crises, the consequences of which will affect us and all life on earth. What is our response?

Please come to this meeting about one of the worlds most intractable problems.

**Please
Join us in:**



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

**Saturday, September 14th
at 2:00 PM**

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



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 Sept. 15th 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.

The Humorous Humanist

NEO LOGISMS

GINERATION: Inherited alcoholism

ELFORTLESS: Little people with no garrison

SISPENDED: When your female sibling is hung up.

INTERLUBE: The time between oil changes.

COUPERAGE: Anger during a government overthrow.

PERVARICATION: Lies told by sex offenders to cover up their illicit behavior.

PUTZCH: An insurrection by the inordinately clumsy.

LU GOO GAI PAN: a somber Chinese dish that despite male critiques, produces unexpected hilarity.

CONPUTER: Device used by prisoners to calculate their time left to serve.

BURGLESQUE: A poorly planned break-in. (See: Watergate)

KARMAGEDDON: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like a serious bummer.

GLIBIDO: Succinct talk but no action.

ANTIFUNGAL: An uninfected but prudish woman.

DOPELER EFFECT: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

Jay Alexander,
Steve Brown,
Lois Fries, Secretary
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Brad Perryman Vice Pres.
Jim Peterson, President
Frank Prahl,
- , Treasurer
Jordan Williams.

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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://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/)
[Cognitive Neurosciences](http://fampsy.org/member/lynda-gurvitz/)

Or call:

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

Or, Joel Schmidt

www.floatoncounseling.com
321-604-7637



Hold the date...



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

Register here: <https://www.freeflo.org/>

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

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

November 1 - 3

Fun & Educational? Absolutely!

Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport

5750 T G Lee Blvd. Orlando, FL 32822
407/851-6400 (hotel reservations)
Near the Orlando Airport (MCO)

Coming up sooner...

CSI CON, October 16th to the 20th in Las Vegas. Many prominent world Skeptics will be featured. For more details, see: <https://csiconference.org/>



Also, Save This Date:

2020 World Humanist Congress

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



Members, TBCoR,

AoF & THA
present An introduction to:

Smart Recovery

An Alternative to AA: Mutual support meetings are free and open to anyone seeking science-based, self-empowered addiction recovery.

Self-Management And Recovery Training (SMART) is a global community of mutual-support groups. At meetings, participants help one another resolve problems with any addiction (to drugs or alcohol or to activities such as gambling or over-eating).

Local Facilitator: **Shana Davis**

This discussion is free and open to all. **1PM on Saturday Sept. 21st.**
At the North Tampa Public Library 8916 N

Humanist Quotes

9/19



Col. Robert Ingersoll
Quotes that Endure

It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense.

The greatest test of courage on earth is to bear defeat without losing heart.

Give to every human being every right that you claim for yourself.



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

Check out the Humanist Climate Initiative here
<https://hereforclimate.org/> Also, see our local effort at:
<http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com>.

Humanists urge focus on Climate Crises

Today at the United Nations Human Rights Council, Humanists International has asserted the urgent need to accept climate science, and to face squarely the potentially catastrophic global impacts of global warming and biodiversity loss. Humanists International Director of Advocacy, Elizabeth O'Casey, comments:

"It is about time that member States recognized that any debate on climate change is long over. There is nothing to lose and everything to gain from accepting what the science is telling us about how we are heating up the Earth, changing the climate more rapidly than we can keep up with, let alone the capacity of other living things to adapt, and so we are driving many thousands of species toward extinction and threatening the very fabric of human civilization."

Reykjavik Declaration on Climate Change is put on record at United Nations

Today's statement at Geneva puts on record the [The Reykjavik Declaration on the Climate Change Crisis](#), a resolution approved by the member organizations of Humanists International from around the world, as they came together last month for the annual General Assembly of Humanists International, which this year was held in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The Reykjavik Declaration commends the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2017 Paris Agreement, and the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference

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: spaceexaminer@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/>

Education *Continued from Page [1](#)*

evidence supports it, not because it's just one suggestion among many possibilities. Gravity is a theory, not a suggestion. That's not the nuance that Tuck was offering, though. He wanted evolution to be taught as an *option* — alongside Creationism and Intelligent Design and other myths.

It's disturbing enough that he doesn't understand basic science. But it's downright scary how he thought the state's science curriculum ought to be decided based on his personal faith. When Tuck was appointed to the State Board of Education in 2014, reporters asked him about that comment. *Who knows! Maybe he changed his mind since then...?* Nope. He hadn't learned a damn thing.

Tuck said his problem is that scientists can't say for certain how the universe began.

"I guess the thing I struggle with is you're teaching evolution to fifth-graders and you get done and one says, 'Where did it start?'" he said. "And you say what?"

Tuck's inability to answer that question apparently meant Florida teachers shouldn't be required to tell kids the truth. (Evolution, by the way, is about a *process*. It doesn't answer how or why everything got started.)

So that guy is now running the State Board of Education. I guess we can expect to see a lot more Florida Man stories over the next decade given the education these students won't be receiving.

Courtesy of **Hemant Mehta**

Atheists of Florida Inc.



For our Atheists helping the Homeless project -

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

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

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



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



Concerned about something happening in your neighborhood or school? If you can answer yes to any of these questions below, we will try to help you:

Who is behind the issue? Is it a religion?
Is it an equal rights issue? Is religion trying to impose its belief on the public?

If we had true separation of state and church, would the issue go away? You can ask us to investigate or clarify the issue for you, without revealing your identity.

<http://aof.ngo>

Sept. Events

[Find details by clicking](#)

Be sure to check for changes and RSVP!

Sept 25 7PM
Atheist Meetup
Port Richey Books-a-million

meetup

Sept. 18
5PM (See Pg. 3)
Apple - bees Largo

Sept. 1
4 PM
Que Pasa Rest.
10466 Roosevelt Blvd. with St Pete Atheists

Secular Sunday Discussion

The last Sunday of every month we meet for our social dinner and a good roundtable discussion on various ungodly matters. You are welcome to join us and bring forth news and opinion on your favorite topics and add relish to your closely reasoned thoughts.

We pick a different venue generally in the west Tampa area with easy access to St. Petersburg. To find out where and when, check out our Meetup site or the TB-CoR site.

Saturday, Sept 21st, Tampa: find out more about Smart Recovery, a secular method for dealing with addiction issues. See Page 4

Judy Adkins, VP, AoF



The Great Atheist Sock Project

AoF **VP. Judy Adkins** is surrounded by boxes of socks that have begun to be distributed among the various social service agencies supported by AoF.

The project was initiated as a social commitment when AoF learned that Socks were an item much in demand but in little supply for some school children and homeless people.

AoF is grateful to the many members and others who have contributed substantially to the project. Both designated money and good clean new socks are much appreciated. Contact us if you wish to donate. info@atheistsoffloridainc.org

Saturday, September 7th,

The Socrates Cafe

A discussion hosted by **Brent Hardaway**

Would It Be Better To Live In The Matrix If We Were Happier There?

"You take the blue pill, the story ends. You wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to. You take the red pill, you stay in wonderland. And I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes." So were Morpheus' words to Neo in the movie The Matrix as he offered him a choice between staying in the simulated world, and finding out what the truth about reality was.

The question is more than just a thought experiment. Even now, people seek refuge in fantasy worlds through highly complex video games, spending inordinate amounts of time there. As technology increases, the forms of virtual reality worlds that are offered will no doubt become more and more sophisticated. We might envision something like the holodeck in Star Trek: The Next Generation becoming possible. Indeed, one of the storylines in the series featured a crewman who became addicted to life in the holodeck, to the neglect of his responsibilities.

But does it really matter? If we can find some way to physically survive while living in a virtual world that can cater to us and seems to offer us more fulfillment than the real world and all its disappointments, would it be better to do so? Can we really flourish and be satisfied in a world that we know is ultimately a lie? Come join us for another fun, lively discussion! And join us at The Independent afterwards!

WHO CAN COME? Thinkers and seekers from all perspectives (Classical theist, Pantheist, Atheist, Agnostic, etc.) are welcome. At each monthly meeting, we'll do three things: (1) We'll talk about some philosophical, ethical, or theological topic. (2) We'll have a discussion with lots of Q&A. Everyone is welcome to participate. You don't have to agree. We just ask that you ask questions and interact cordially. (3) Then, we'll continue the discussion around some snacks and beverages.

Join us for another fascinating discussion, and join us for dinner/drinks at The Independent (5016 N. Florida Avenue) for dinner/drinks afterwards! Join us **Sept. 7th at 3 PM in the Seminole Heights Branch Library, 4711 N Central Ave, Tampa, FL, 33603**

Be sure to RSVP!

meetup



Atheists Helping Homeless Students in Polk County

13 August 2019

Bartow, FL— The Atheist Community of Polk County (ACPC), an affiliate of American Atheists, has launched a campaign supporting homeless and in-transition students in the Polk County Public School (PCPS) District.

"As part of our growing organization's commitment to giving back to our communities, we have been looking at a variety of organizations and charities to support and partner with," said Sarah Ray, co-founder and Director of ACPC. "When we learned that over 3,700 students in our county schools experienced homelessness last school year, our hearts just went out to these kids and we knew the HEARTH Project was something we had to get involved with."

The HEARTH Project and Polk County Public Schools are dedicated to assisting homeless and in-transition families and children by eliminating barriers to school enrollment, attendance, stability, and overall academic success. We work to ensure that children experiencing homelessness have the same opportunities for educational success as housed students in Polk County.

<https://polkschoolsfl.com/hearth/>

Ben Ruch, Homeless Services Coordinator with HEARTH, was a featured speaker last month at the ACPC's Monthly Educational Meeting in Lake Wales. "I wholeheartedly believe that education is key for many of these kids to end that cycle [of poverty and homelessness] that they're caught up in. And I see so many that do," Ruch said. "But, for as many of those success stories as we have, there are kids who are falling through the cracks and that's why we're doing our best to be diligent to identify and assist as many of these kids as we can."

"I couldn't agree more," Ray said. "Education is the most fruitful investment in addressing a wide range of social challenges. We're a little over half-way through this campaign and, speaking on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we are so proud of the investment our community is making in the lives of these students. No doubt we will continue supporting the great work HEARTH is doing into the future."

"Often we get asked, 'what motivates an atheist to do good, in the absence of a god belief?' Atheistonly tells you what I don't believe. Most of us identify as Humanists, too. In a worldview that doesn't expect a benevolent deity to solve the world's problems, we recognize that we must do this important work ourselves, and so we dedicate ourselves to helping others – one human to another."

Members and friends of the ACPC are collecting donations benefiting the HEARTH Project through August 24th, 2019. Items from the list may be donated at any ACPC event and donations can be made online. For more information, visit PolkAtheists.org/hearth.

The Atheist Community of Polk County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on the separation of state and church and building a thriving secular community in Polk County, Florida.

SARAH RAY



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



17
years in
Florida

**Rick
O'Keefe,
Branch
Coordinator**



The Problem with The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

By John Murdoch for Center for Inquiry,
<http://bit.ly/2MCTMWY>

In the course of doing background research for my last article covering alternative beliefs, it was puzzling, to say the least, to find out that there is a federal agency in the United States dedicated to alternative medicine. Perhaps more remarkably, it falls under the umbrella of the National Institutes of Health and receives in excess of \$100 million in funding annually. The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) (formerly the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine [NCCAM] before the negative connotations of alternative medicine became more widely known) states that its mission is “to define, through rigorous scientific investigation, the usefulness and safety of complementary and integrative health interventions and their roles in improving health and health care.” This prompted me to further consider the overall role of alternative medicine in our society. I was fairly astonished to find 893 entries for the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (803 while still listed as NCCAM and an additional ninety entries as NCCIH in the past four years since the attempted rebranding) on Grantome, a site tracking the awarding of public funding to individual grant applications, with information on grant topic, methodology, and study aims, and needed to do background reading first to find out why the NCCAM even existed.

It quickly became apparent that a sizeable dose of political history of the past two decades is necessary to fully understand just why this agency exists and receives almost \$150 million each year in funding to distribute to these studies. Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), a longtime believer in “alternative medicine” and an influential subcommittee chairman in 1991, pushed for the earmarked pork barrel spending that enacted the original Office of Alternative Medicine (OAM) in 1991–1992 with \$2 million in seed money. By 1994, he had already forced out the first director of OAM for being insufficiently accommodating to his magical expectations.

In 1997, when the OAM was up to \$12.5 million per year, he bemoaned that it had not “investigated and validated one darn thing” (perhaps because it was investigating things that were fundamentally invalid as treatments) and demanded that it be upgraded to a national center with its own (CAM true believer) peer reviewers and the ability to award its own grants. He called “expert” witnesses such as James Gordon, director of the Center for Mind-Body Medicine at Georgetown/first chairman of the advisory council at OAM, who called the budget “completely inadequate” and expected \$100–150 million (eerily accurate with respect to the current budget). He even found it unacceptable that none of the 125 scientifically and medically qualified peer reviewers on NIH standing review committees had licenses or degrees in chiropractic and/or acupuncture. Harkin and Gordon got their way after this tantrum; in 1999, President Clinton upgraded the OAM to the NCCAM with a \$50 million budget, part of which was used to

establish research facilities at the naturopathic Bastyr University (Bastyr had previously been awarded almost \$1 million in 1994 to search for “alternative medicine” treatments for HIV; subsequently the Bastyr dean has served as a member of the NCCAM advisory council, and the university still cultivates extremely strong ties to NCCAM today). By 2002, the NCCAM budget had ballooned to over \$100 million. In 2009, as he (horrifyingly) ascended to the Chair of the Senate Health Committee, and at which point the OAM/NCCAM/NCCIH had drained over \$2.5 billion in public funding, Harkin nonetheless lamented that the NCCAM had still not been sufficiently supportive of alternative medicine and had indeed focused too much on “disproving things.” He went on to aver that “it is time to end the discrimination against alternative health care practices.” Harkin’s crowning pseudoscientific achievement was shamefully pushing for the inclusion of practitioners of CAM into the Affordable Care Act.

And see this about the Republican's new Lysenkoism - if it's not politically correct ...

The Disgraceful Episode Of Lysenkoism Brings Us Global Warming Theory

<http://buff.ly/31ujfG5>

Trofim Lysenko became the Director of the [Soviet Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences](#) in the 1930s under Josef Stalin. He was an advocate of the theory that characteristics acquired by plants during their lives could be inherited by later generations stemming from the changed plants, which sharply contradicted Mendelian genetics. As a result, Lysenko became a fierce critic of theories of the then rising modern genetics.

Under Lysenko’s view, for example, grafting branches of one plant species onto another could create new plant hybrids that would be perpetuated by the descendants of the grafted plant. Or modifications made to seeds would be inherited by later generations stemming from that seed. Or that plucking all the leaves off of a plant would cause descendants of the plant to be leafless.

Lysenkoism was “politically correct” (a term invented by Lenin) because it was consistent with certain broader Marxist doctrines. Marxists wanted

(Continued on page 10)



The “post-truth” era indisputably proves that there is a great need for an organization like the Center for Inquiry, which champions facts, reason, truth, science, and secularism. During a time where ideas are under threat by the changing tides of national and global events, everyone who shares these core values will be needed. CFI needs your help to be part of the solution, to join the good guys. <http://bit.ly/2pTDfEj>

How to Keep Fake News Out of Your Head

The defense of your mind against digital lies begins with you.

We are floundering in the fake news era. This is a deep, dark ocean, and too many of us don’t know how to swim.

Remember when the Internet was going to educate us and elevate our overall intelligence as a species? (The ‘90s were so sweet and naïve, weren’t they?) All that good stuff may happen, but at present, digital fake news is deceiving countless millions. Millions of websites have been weaponized with content designed to attack our cognitive vulnerabilities. Every day, YouTube videos pump nonsense into the minds of millions. Billions of emails fly around the world delivering irresistible links to madness.

All of this is possible because most people have not bothered to learn the basics of human thought—biases, short cuts, and perception errors—that lead us to so easily believe nonsense and lies.

I disagree with calls for governments and corporations to clean up the mess that is online fake news. First, there is a conflict of interest—these are often the sources of dishonest content. Second, freedom of speech is an invaluable concept that should not be weakened. Third, it is a defeatist victim mentality to expect someone else to protect your brain. Police your own thoughts. Don’t be such an easy mark. Good thinking is not as difficult as you may imagine.

In my book, *Think Before You Like*, I detail several simple defenses that everyone can utilize when consuming online information. Here is a condensed list: *[and the full article]* <http://bit.ly/2M7mpv8>.

Final Thoughts on the War for Your Mind

Strive to make critical thinking your automatic reaction to online encounters with news and other information. This won’t make you invulnerable and incapable of making missteps, of course.

Do not forget for one second that you are under constant threat of intellectual assault from countless throngs of deluded believers pushing endless streams of baloney and madness. There also are countless profit-motivated, agenda-driven, and just plain dishonest companies and people who show up and work hard every day with the aim of fooling you for their own gain. Defend your mind.

I find some reason for hope and optimism amid the current explosion of fake news we are experiencing. There is a chance that people finally will be forced, after being suckered one too many times, to recognize and admit the obvious: We must think before we believe. Maybe financial cost, political exploitation, or just plain humiliation will motivate more of us to finally become our own editors and stop trusting every story that comes along. And that would be progress.

How Accurate Are Personality Tests?

Precious few personality assessments are known to be reliable, and researchers say their use outside academia is debatable. By Angus Chen, [Scientific American](#), October 10, 2018

If you’re looking for insight into the true you, there’s a buffet of personality questionnaires available. Some are silly—like the internet quiz that tells everyone who takes it that they are procrastinators at the core. Other questionnaires, developed and sold as tools to help people hire the right candidate or find love, take themselves more seriously.

The trouble is, if you ask the experts, most of these might not be worth the money. “You should be skeptical,” says Simine Vazire, a personality researcher at the University of California, Davis. “Until we test them scientifically we can’t tell the difference between that and pseudoscience like astrology.”

One famous example of a popular but dubious commercial personality test is the Myers–Briggs Type Indicator. This questionnaire divides people into 16 different “types” and, often, the assessment will suggest certain career or romantic pairings. It costs \$15 to \$40 for an individual, but psychologists say the questionnaire is one of the worst personality tests in existence for a wide range of reasons. It is unreliable because a person’s type may change from day to day. It gives false information (“bogus stuff,” one researcher puts it). The questions are confusing and poorly worded. Vazire sums it up as “shockingly bad.”

To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.
~ Theodore Roosevelt

All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunity of citizenship. ... For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens.
~ G. Washington



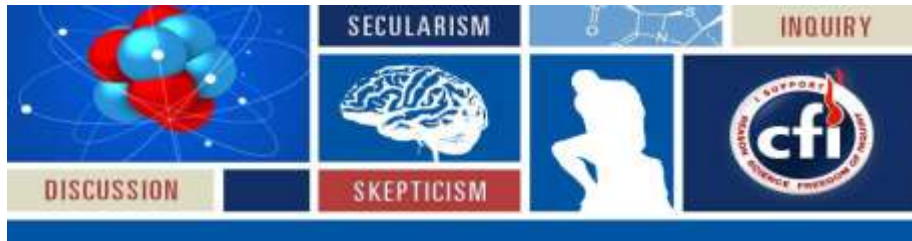
And I have no doubt that every new example, will succeed, as every past one has done, in shewing that religion & Govt. will both exist in greater purity, the less they are mixed together. ~ James Madison



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agriculture: 'It feels like something out of a bad sci-fi movie'

A top climate scientist quit USDA, following others who say Trump has politicized science. By [Helena Bottemiller Evich](#)

One of the nation's leading climate change scientists is quitting the Agriculture Department in protest over the Trump administration's efforts to bury his groundbreaking study about how rice is losing nutrients because of rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Lewis Ziska, a 62-year-old plant physiologist who's worked at USDA's Agricultural Research Service for more than two decades, told POLITICO he was alarmed when department officials not only questioned the findings of the study — which raised serious concerns for the 600 million people who depend on rice for most of their calories — but also tried to minimize media coverage of the paper, which was published in the journal [Science Advances](#) last year.

"You get the sense that things have changed, that this is not a place for you to be exploring things that don't agree with someone's political views," Ziska said in a wide-ranging interview. "That's so sad. I can't even begin to tell you how sad that is."

The departure comes soon after several other government officials resigned from their posts over accusations that the administration is censoring climate science — reports that have raised alarm about scientific integrity in the federal government.

Last week, an intelligence analyst at the State Department [said he left his post](#) after administration officials blocked his testimony to Congress about the wide-ranging national security implications of climate change. A National Park Service employee [also stepped forward](#), alleging she lost her job after refusing to scrub mentions of human-caused climate change from a peer-reviewed paper that was set to publish.

A POLITICO [investigation revealed last month](#) that USDA has routinely buried its own climate-related science and other work on climate change that continues. POLITICO also recently reported USDA [suppressed the release of its own plan](#) for studying and responding to climate change.

The USDA has repeatedly denied having any policy to discourage dissemination of science or the use of any climate-change-related terms.

In response to Ziska's resignation, the department said in a statement that objections to promoting his rice study were based on scientific disagreement involving career officials, not politics.

"This was a joint decision by ARS national program leaders — all career scientists — not to send out a press release on this

paper," the statement said.

Ziska, in describing his decision to leave, painted a picture of a department in constant fear of the president and Secretary Sonny Perdue's open skepticism about broadly accepted climate science, leading officials to go to extremes to obscure their work to avoid political blowback. The result, he said, is a vastly diminished ability for taxpayer-funded scientists to provide farmers and policymakers with important information about complex threats to the global food supply.

Read the rest [here](#).

(Continued from page 8) Lysenkoism

to believe that heredity had a limited role even among humans, and that human characteristics changed by living under socialism would be inherited by subsequent generations of humans. Thus would be created the selfless new Soviet man. ...

The Theory of Man Caused Catastrophic Global Warming

This same practice of Lysenkoism has long been under way in western science in regard to the politically correct theory of man caused, catastrophic, global warming. That theory serves the political fashions of the day in promoting vastly increased government powers and control over the private economy. Advocates of the theory are lionized in the dominant Democrat party controlled media in the U.S., and in leftist controlled media in other countries. Critics of the theory are denounced as "deniers," and even still bourgeois fascists, with their motives impugned.

Check it out for yourself <https://buff.ly/31ujfG5>

Coming in September: our new series of lectures/discussions/optional lunches in Brandon, Tampa, Pinellas. And, as always, for paid up CFI members/donors: the monthly book club, N. Pinellas humanists dinner, Brandon's Skeptics in the Pub, and Skeptics Sunday Brunch. All to be listed on our Website

<https://CFITampaBay.org>.



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

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

3M State of Science Index

For the second year, 3M is sharing unique insights from our original research. The *State of Science Index* is an independent survey that explores global attitudes toward science, taking the pulse on how people think and feel about the field and its impact on the world around us.

Why are we continuing our research? We are a science-based company that wants to solve society's biggest problems. To do so, we need to understand what the world thinks of science—and the role it plays in society—because it could impact the future. Understanding attitudes toward science can inform how we build a better and healthier world. In fact, 3M supports many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals including: good health & well-being, quality education, and decent work & economic growth. We are building and contributing to communities around science education, jobs, skills and safety in the workplace, as well as other aspects of health. Our annual State of Science Index also supports and informs 3M's sustainability strategy and roadmap.

How did attitudes toward science change from 2018 to 2019?

Last year's results revealed fascinating tensions about the world's perception of the field. We had data that proved the existence of both science skeptics and supporters. But what interested us most was the sheer amount of skeptics: 1 in 3 people (32%) questioned science.*

In 2019, we see a continuation of that challenge—the number of skeptics increased by 3 percentage points.* However, this year we can now point to specific reasons why they feel this way and recommend appropriate solutions.

"People are more likely to care about science when they know what it will eventually do"

People don't actively stand up—or speak up—for science

Only 20% of the world stands up for science

when debating its merits with other people, meaning 80% do not.

Despite what we've seen, 87% of people acknowledge we need science to solve the world's problems. Our theory is that they don't stand up for science simply because they don't realize there's a need to.

Take action to make science relatable

What can we do to create more science champions? We can start by making science more relevant in people's lives. For instance, we found one of the biggest drivers of interest in the field is demonstrating how advancements benefit future generations. In other words, people are more likely to care about science when they know what it will eventually do.

Throughout [this website](#), you can find stories and guides that help anyone stand up for science—whether you're a STEM professional, educator, or someone who just appreciates science—because our field needs more champions like you. Here is what we learned and a preview of what to expect.

Read the rest [here](#).

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The Center for Inquiry (CFI) strives to foster a society free of the dogmatic influence of religion and pseudoscience; a society inspired by the ideals of the Enlightenment, the wonders of science, and the limitless potential of human intelligence and creativity; a society in which beliefs are not granted the same rights as people, where the freedom of expression is enjoyed by all, and all ideas are open to the scrutiny of reason. Secular government. Free inquiry. Critical thinking. Humanist values. This is the Center for Inquiry. *Join us, we need you —*
<http://bit.ly/2pTDfEj>



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!](#)



In examining the pseudohistorical claims in ancient texts, we present this for your consideration.

Twenty-One Reasons Noah's Worldwide Flood Never Happened

By [Dr. Lorence G. Collins](#), From: *Skeptical Inquirer*, Volume 42, No. 2, March / April 2018

Young-Earth creationists claim that the Paleozoic sedimentary rocks in the Grand Canyon and the Mesozoic sedimentary rocks of the Grand Staircase north of the canyon, in which Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks occur, were deposited during Noah's worldwide flood about 4,500 years ago (Hill 2002; Hill and Moshier 2009). I realize that readers of *Skeptical Inquirer* accept modern scientific views on this subject, but this examination of the creationist claims might be useful when communicating with others less imbued with scientific thinking. There are at least twenty-one scientific reasons a worldwide flood recounted in the Bible cannot have happened.

1. The stair-stepped appearance of erosion of sedimentary rocks in the Grand Canyon with sandstones and limestones forming cliffs and shales forming gentle slopes cannot happen if all these rocks were deposited in less than one year. If the Grand Canyon had been carved soon after these rocks were deposited by a worldwide flood, they would not have had time to harden into solid rock and would have been saturated with water. Therefore, the sandstones and limestones would have slumped during the carving of the canyon and would not have formed cliffs (Hill et al. 2016).
2. Salt and gypsum deposits, more than 200 feet thick, occur in the Paradox Formation in Utah just 200 miles north of the Grand Canyon, and these deposits are the same age as the Supai rocks in the Grand Canyon that were supposedly also deposited by Noah's flood. Similar salt deposits, up to 3,000 feet thick, exist in various places on all continents and in layers of all geologic ages, and these deposits can only be produced by evaporation of sea water. Such evaporation could not have happened in repeated intervals in the

midst of the forty days and forty nights of raining and during the supposed continuous deposition of sedimentary rocks by a worldwide flood and in which the only drying and evaporation is said to have occurred at the end of the flood (Collins 2006; 2009; 2012; Hill et al. 2016).

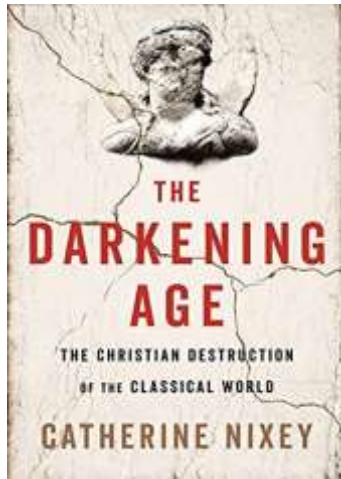
3. Sand dunes with giant cross bedding occur in the Mesozoic rocks in Zion National Park and are further evidence that desert conditions occurred at the time of the supposed flood (Senter 2011; Collins 2017).
4. Fossilized mud cracks occur in the Cambrian Tapeats Formation on top of the Precambrian Vishnu schist at the bottom of the canyon and indicate that drying conditions existed during the alleged worldwide Noah's flood, and these drying conditions occurred at the very beginning of this supposed flood. Although mud cracks can also form in mud under water by compression that squeezes out water from the mud, such compression is not likely to occur during a flood. Moreover ... [Read the rest here.](#)

A Reasonable Possibility

Thomas H. Huxley (1825–1895) said the following: “The great tragedy of science—the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact.” Any one of the above twenty-one facts destroys the idea that Noah's flood was a worldwide occurrence. Nevertheless, a local large flood in Mesopotamia in biblical times could have been possible (Collins 2009). Young-Earth creationists commonly point out that Jesus supported the existence of Noah's flood (Luke 17:27; Matthew 24:38–39), but in the context of the time in which Jesus lived, the translation of the Hebrew word *ertz* would have been understood as “land” and not the whole world. In that sense, all the land that Noah could have normally seen would have been under water in that part of Mesopotamia and that would have been in effect his whole world. During large floods in Iraq (Mesopotamia), commonly abundant rain falling in the adjacent Zagros Mountains goes underground in solution tunnels in limestone beds and emerges as gushing water in springs in Iraq. These springs are likely the “fountains of the great deep” as described in Genesis 7:11 (Hill 2015).

Recommended Reading

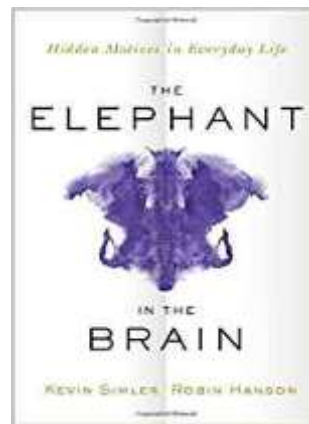
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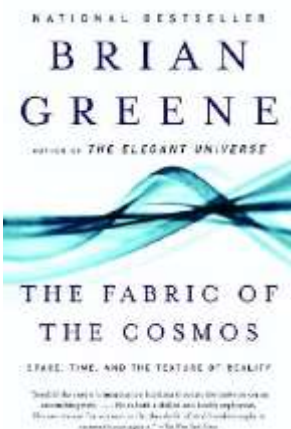
In Harran, the locals refused to convert. They were dismembered, their limbs hung along the town's main street. In Alexandria, zealots pulled the elderly philosopher-mathematician Hypatia from her chariot and flayed her to death with shards of broken pottery. Not long before, their fellow Christians had invaded the city's greatest temple and razed it—smashing its world-famous statues and destroying all that was left of Alexandria's Great Library.

Today, we refer to Christianity's conquest of the West as a "triumph." But this victory entailed an orgy of destruction in which Jesus's followers attacked and suppressed classical culture, helping to pitch Western civilization into a thousand-year-long decline. Just one percent of Latin literature would survive the purge; countless antiquities, artworks, and ancient traditions were lost forever.

Human beings are primates, and primates are political animals. Our brains, therefore, are designed not just to hunt and gather, but also to help us get ahead socially, often via deception and self-deception. But while we may be self-interested schemers, we benefit by pretending otherwise. The less we know about our own ugly motives, the better - and thus we don't like to talk or even think about the extent of our selfishness. This is "the elephant in the brain." Such an introspective taboo makes it hard for us to think clearly about our nature and the explanations for our behavior. The aim of this book, then, is to confront our hidden motives directly - to track down the darker, unexamined corners of our psyches and blast them with floodlights.



Space and time form the very fabric of the cosmos. Yet they remain among the most mysterious of concepts. Is space an entity? Why does time have a direction? Could the universe exist without space and time? Can we travel to the past? Greene has set himself a daunting task: to explain non-intuitive, mathematical concepts like String Theory, the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, and Inflationary Cosmology with analogies drawn from common experience. From Newton's unchanging realm in which space and time are absolute, to Einstein's fluid conception of spacetime, to quantum mechanics' entangled arena where vastly distant objects can instantaneously coordinate their behavior, Greene takes us all, regardless of our scientific backgrounds, on an irresistible and revelatory journey to the new layers of reality that modern physics has discovered lying just beneath the surface of our everyday world.



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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 Walljasper
12. Sex, Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14. What liberal Media Eric Alderman
15. The End of Faith Sam Harris
16. Plan B Lester Brown
17. The Portable Atheist Christopher Hitchens
18. Open Society George Soros
19. Non Believer Nation David Niose
20. God on Trial Peter Irons
21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond-Robinson
22. The Missionary Position Christopher Hitchens
23. Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff
24. A brief History of Time Stephen Hawking
25. Breaking the Spell Daniel Dennett
26. The Philosophy of Humanism Corliss Lamont
27. The Quotable Atheist Jack Huberman
28. 50 Reasons People Believe In G.G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics Alan Taylor
30. Stealing Elections John Fund
31. The God Virus Darrel Ray
32. What Every American Should Know About World Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven Editors of Free Inquiry
34. Hidden Order David Friedman
35. What the Dog Saw 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
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46. The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
47. The Moral Landscape Sam Harris
48. How We Believe Michael Shermer
49. Full House Steven Jay Gould
50. The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain Harriet Smith, Editor
53. Science Friction Michael Shermer
54. Genius James Gleick
55. Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
56. Demon Haunted World Carl Sagan
57. Being Right Is Not Enough Paul Waldman
58. Loser Takes All Mark Crispin Miller
59. Taking Back Politics Cathy Allen
60. Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
63. 12 Vol Complete Works Robert Ingersoll
64. On Religious Liberty Roger Williams & Davis
65. The God Makers Baker & Hunt
66. Inevitable Illusions M. Piatrelli-Palmarini
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
69. Bonk Mary Roach
70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
73. Best American Non required Reading Dave 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

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The mission of the **Secular Coalition for Florida** is to increase the visibility of & respect for non-theistic view-points in the State, & to protect &



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St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com

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

- * Provide intellectual & emotional support to each other & to others in our community who share our philosophy.
- * Foster humanistic moral values & ethical behaviors.
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- * "To Smell the Roses Along the Way"

Next meet: Check the meetup site above.

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



University of South Florida Humanities Institute

Sep. 14 - Community Book Group - *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond

Location: [The Attic Cafe](#) (500 E. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33602)



Sep. 19 - Meet the Author: **Matthew Desmond**: *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* Location: [UACDC](#) (14013 N. 22nd St. Tampa, FL 33613)



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Monday, Sept. 9th 2019

Topic:

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://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

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TB-CoR Welcomes

Ethical Humanism

Ethical Humanism, also called Ethical Culture, is an evolving body of ideas that inspires Ethical Societies. Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity (**Humanist Manifesto III**). For Ethical Humanists, the ultimate religious questions are not about the existence of gods or an afterlife, but rather, "How can we create meaningfulness in this life?" and "How should we treat each other?" The American Ethical Union was founded in 1877 by Felix Adler in New York, and currently has over 30 member societies.

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



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Donald Trump vs. Good Science

There was a time in the not-too-distant past when I believed that it did not really matter who became the President of the U.S. I was of the opinion that any moron could reach that position without any serious damage being done to the nation.

However, President Donald Trump has quickly disabused me of that foolish notion. Trump is the most anti-intellectual, anti-science, hopelessly irrational, conspiracy-minded president in the history of this nation. And the damage that he could do to the world is truly terrifying.

Recently, Trump has been in the news for his willingness to speak with President Kim Jong Un of North Korea about denuclearization. However, what has not received front-page news coverage is the fact that he has done so without the help of a White House science adviser.

According to a story by Coral Davenport in the New York Times: *Trump is the first president since 1941 not to name a science adviser, a position created during World War II to guide the Oval Office on technical matters ranging from nuclear warfare to global pandemics. As a businessman and president, Trump has proudly been guided by his instincts. Nevertheless, people who have participated in past nuclear negotiations say the absence of such high-level expertise could put him at a tactical disadvantage in one of the weightiest diplomatic matters of his presidency. ("In the Trump administration, science and advice have been made unwelcome," the Buffalo News, June 10, 2018, p. A4.)*

The story goes on to quote R. Nicholas Burns, who headed negotiations with India about nuclear power for civilian uses during the Presidency of George W. Bush. Burns pointed out that without a powerful senior science adviser at the negotiations, the U.S. is at a clear disadvantage. "You can be sure the other side will have that," he said.

The article summed up leadership under Trump as "the death of science in shaping U.S. policy." As evidence supporting this disturbing claim, the story related:

There is no chief scientist at the State Department, where science is central to foreign policy matters such as cybersecurity and global warming. Nor is there a chief scientist at the Department of Agriculture. Trump last year nominated Sam Clovis, a former talk show host with no scientific background, to the position, but he withdrew his name and no new nomination has been made. (Emphasis added.)

The article pointed out that due to Trump's war on science, the Interior Department and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have done away with their committees addressing climate science. Moreover, the Food and Drug Administration eliminated its Food Advisory Committee that addressed the issue of food safety.

All of this is added to the long-known fact that government



Norm Allen

scientists complain that the Trump Administration is squashing their research. Trump is alienating scientists to the point where many of them are moving to other countries to do their research. Trump is, in many ways, dumbing down the United States.

Trump has taken the lead in attacking Obama's climate change policies. The article quoted William K. Reilly, head of the Environmental Protection Agency during the Presidency of George H.W. Bush. Reilly says that Trump's moves "will diminish the characterization of pollution as risky." John Walke, who specializes in clean-air policy with the Natural Resources Defense Council, noted that EPA head Scott Pruitt, "wants to set a definition of clean air that is medically unsafe."

Trump and his cronies are primarily interested in making money for big businesses, the environment and the people (and other animals) be damned. They are suppressing research that shows the relationship between surface mining and poor health. They see the Earth as a playpen with unlimited riches for the wealthy.

However, it is good to know that some people will not sell out. The story pointed out that:

In January, the majority of members of the Interior Department's National Parks System Advisory Board, which advises on management of national parks, resigned to protest Trump administration policies.

Tony Knowles, the former head of the board, said [Interior Department secretary Ryan] Zinke "appears to have no interest in confronting the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem." Trump loves playing to his deluded, ignorant base and their hatred of "elites," scientists and other smart people deemed too big for their britches. All the while, the world continues to suffer at the hands of these ridiculously incompetent, unreasoning buffoons.

By Norm R. Allen Jr.

Institute for Science and Human Values

Norm R. Allen Jr. is the editor of two ground-breaking 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.

Evolve Fish is a source for freethought paraphernalia:
<http://evolvefish.com/>

To access more Freethought history & perspectives,

Climate Crises *Continued from Page 5*

(COP23), and expresses support for “a global transition to new ways of using resources and new means of generating energy that will be socially and environmentally sustainable” and in particular “urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make land-use and resource extraction sustainable, and to protect and conserve wild habitats”.

Today’s statement at Geneva, delivered by Jessica McDonald, follows below:

41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council (24th June – 12th July 2019) General Debate Item 8 Jessica McDonald

A safe, clean and sustainable environment is integral to a full enjoyment of all rights mentioned in the Vienna

Foundation beyond Belief



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



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

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

Declaration, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation.

Last month, humanists from around the world approved the Reykjavik Declaration on the Climate Change Crisis.¹ Humanists International and its member organizations agreed that:

“Human beings are part of the natural world but have a disproportionate effect on the global environment and biodiversity. Throughout history, our species has used the natural world to increase individual and collective wellbeing, and the impact we have is no longer sustainable. Governments need to respect the overwhelming conclusions reached by the international scientific community, including that the overuse of natural resources and the increase in greenhouse gas emissions is driving catastrophic climate change, threatening the diversity of life on Earth and the sustainability of human societies.”

Notably, climate change adversely affects not only human communities, but non-human animals and natural ecosystems.

We call on the world to act with urgency and in a globally coordinated way to reduce and prevent human contributions to climate change, to mitigate climate impacts and adapt to them.

As the UN Special Rapporteur on the Environment has pointed out, “There can be no doubt that the right to a healthy environment is a moral right [...] However, to ensure that this right is respected, protected and fulfilled, it requires legal protection.”² Accordingly, we call on this Council to explore the possibility of creating a legal recognition of the right to a healthy environment at the global level.

This declaration makes reference and recommendations similar to those articulated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the resulting work of the 2017 Paris Agreement, and the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference





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.net>



US Peace Memorial Foundation

www.USPeaceMemorial.org •
info@USPeaceMemorial.org
[@USPeaceMemorial](http://www.facebook.com/USPeace)

The US Peace Memorial Foundation directs a nationwide effort to honor Americans who stand for peace by publishing the US Peace Registry, awarding the annual US Peace Prize, and planning for the US Peace Memorial in Washington, DC. These projects help move the United States toward a culture of peace by honoring the millions of thoughtful and courageous Americans and U.S. organizations that have taken a public stand against one or more U.S. wars or who have devoted their time, energy, and other resources to finding peaceful solutions to international conflicts. We celebrate these role models to inspire other Americans to speak out against war and to work for peace. Our US Peace Registry recognizes heroes who have engaged in a broad range of peace and antiwar activities. Individuals who have written an antiwar letter to their representatives in Congress or to a newspaper are included, along with Americans who have devoted their lives to peace and opposing war.

The US Peace Prize has been awarded to groups and individuals who have made inspiring and remarkable efforts to promote peace including David Swanson, Ann Wright, Veterans For Peace, Kathy Kelly, CODEPINK Women for Peace, Chelsea Manning, Medea Benjamin, Noam Chomsky, Dennis Kucinich, and Cindy Sheehan.

A US Peace Memorial in Washington, DC is our ultimate goal. Most monuments in our nation's capital commemorate war. While soldiers are told that it is heroic to fight and die for their country, peace activists are often labeled "un-American," "antimilitary," or "unpatriotic." This mentality has resulted in a country that recognizes contributions to war and the sacrifices of the military, but does not honor those who make valiant efforts to end war and maintain global peace. It is time to dedicate a National Monument to peace. Our society should be as proud of those who work for alternatives to war as it is of those who fight wars.

TO DONATE BY CHECK, please send your tax-deductible contribution payable to: US Peace Memorial Foundation, Inc., 334 East Lake Road #136, Palm Harbor, FL 34685 TO DONATE BY CREDIT CARD or PayPal, go to
www.uspeacememorial.org . See page [20](#) for other Peace related info



Judy Adkins
AoF



Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH



Mark Brandt,
UUCH



Chris Brown,
MAF



Jenn Hancock,
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS



Jim Peterson - Facilitator
HSS, TBPCC

TBCoR Leadership Team 2019

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



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – Sept. 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	
2nd Saturday, 11 AM	N TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP : 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

Promoting Peace The AHA Perspective

Recent events have infused a new concern for the maintenance of peace on our planet.

- The heightening of tensions between the nuclear armed nations of India and Pakistan in Kashmir.
- The explosion of a new nuclear weapon in Russia and subsequent spread of radiation.
- The general deterioration of government and diplomacy worldwide.
- The looming threat of the global natural crises.

Despite our diverse perspectives on societal, ethical, philosophical, and geographical issues, we recognize the freedom, value, and respect to which all of the world's individuals are entitled. The pursuit of peaceful and non-violent strategies to resolve the world's most dire conflicts, which often result in genocide, war, and autocracy, is paramount for human coexistence and progress. Preemptive war, unilateral conflict, arms proliferation, terrorism, and indiscriminate use of force all threaten the common bonds of humanity that we share.

While humanists generally do not take a "peace at any cost" view, we do recognize that just wars have been extraordinarily rare in human history. And for every victory won by violent acts, many more failures exist. Humanists recognize that peaceful solutions are almost always the only lasting positive solutions open to us as we address societal problems.

The AHA believes that cultural exchange, cooperation, peaceful conflict resolution, and diplomacy through multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations, are the most appropriate ways to respect human rights and make the world a safer place for all of its inhabitants. Accordingly, the United States should abide by and help enforce international law and push other countries to strengthen the rule of law in their own societies. Furthermore, peace — not war — and respect for international law are the best forces in international and national policy to positively impact humanity.

Religious Discrimination Receives Govt. Support

The Department of Labor has published a new rule that would allow federal contractors to discriminate against employees based on "sincerely held religious tenets," putting minority rights in immediate danger.

The proposed rule would allow religiously affiliated federal contractors to discriminate *based on an applicant's religious affiliation* and also on whether the employee's *conduct* is consistent with the employer's religious beliefs. In other words, Christian employers can refuse to hire Jews, Muslims and atheists, but Christian employers can also refuse to hire anyone they deem to be a "bad Christian." This is codified taxpayer-funded discrimination based on religion.

[Read FFRF's full statement.](#)

This is particularly concerning for LGBTQ employees and applicants. Anti-gay employers have a long history of disingenuously arguing that they are not discriminating on the basis of someone's sexual orientation, but only based on their "lifestyle" choices. Allowing religious employers to deny employment based on an employee's conduct also opens the door to many other forms of discrimination, such as against single mothers/parents, atheists and those of a minority religion.

Nearly one-quarter of employees in the United States work for an employer that has a contract with the federal government. This proposed rule is a dangerous and unconscionable attack on secular and civil rights. Please join FFRF in denouncing this proposed rule. Click on the red "Take Action!" link below. You will be taken to the regulations.gov comment page. Click on the blue button in the upper right corner that reads "Comment Now!" and fill out the prompt provided. It just takes a minute or two for your voice to be heard.

Take Action!

TALKING POINTS

Please feel free to use or adapt the talking points provided below.

I strongly oppose the proposed rule changes to OFCCP policy that would allow federal contractors to discriminate against employees based on religious affiliation and also based on whether the employee's conduct is consistent with the employer's religious beliefs. This is unconscionable taxpayer-funded discrimination that will put civil rights for vulnerable populations at risk. The Labor Department instead should adopt rules that will protect employees who have a history of suffering discrimination, rather than legalizing such discrimination.

From *Freedom From Religion Foundation*