

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News



Vol. 10 No. 8 August 2021

Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

## What's Inside?

Suncoast Humanist Soc	<a href="#">2*</a>
Post Carbon Council	<a href="#">5*</a>
Atheists of Florida	<a href="#">7*</a>
CFI Tampa Bay	<a href="#">8*</a>
Tampa Bay Skeptics	<a href="#">11*</a>
Books/Cooper Library	<a href="#">11</a>
Tampa Bay Thinkers	<a href="#">12</a>
Humanist Families	<a href="#">12*</a>
Military Atheists	<a href="#">12*</a>
Ethical Humanism	<a href="#">12</a>
Socrates Café	<a href="#">12</a>
Hum. Sarasota Bay	<a href="#">12</a>
UU Humanists	<a href="#">12*</a>
USF Humanities Institute	<a href="#">13</a>
Freethinkers@USF	<a href="#">13</a>
TB Technology Ctr	
Astronomy clubs	<a href="#">13</a>
TB Coalition of Reason	<a href="#">13</a>
Unified Calendar	<a href="#">14</a>



## America's 1st Young Humanist Seminar

August 7th | 10:30 [Reserve Now](#)



The tragedy continues...

## Meetings remain constricted

Thanks to the failure to be vaccinated of many of our fellow citizens, we must again forfeit the opportunity to enjoy the conviviality of each other's company.

Once again the practical effect of adopting an appreciation of science and a rational approach to life has produced a shining contrast to the deeply recessive and contradictory fears of the prevailing rightist atmosphere now weighing heavily on our society.

Mistrust and fear created by a pervasive ignorance and inadequate education, and fueled by conspiracy and political contrivance are driving the current malaise and confusion. It is up to us to challenge these attitudes and ideas whenever we should have contact with them. Arm yourself with the best knowledge available and ever so gently reassure the fearful.

**NB.** Until further notice, following best-practices and official medical recommendations, **all group face to face gatherings are postponed** due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will let you know here when we're go for "Normal." **It will be soon. (We hope)**

**Steven Weinberg**, Humanist, and one of the greatest theoretical physicists of all time, passed away on 23 July, aged 88.

He revolutionized particle physics, quantum field theory and cosmology with conceptual breakthroughs which still form the foundation of our understanding of physical reality. Weinberg is well known for the unified theory of weak and electromagnetic forces, which earned him the Nobel Prize in 1979, and led to the prediction of the Z and W vector bosons, later discovered at CERN in 1983.

Steven Weinberg was an atheist and firmly committed to science and expressed his view on religion and God fearlessly: "Science does not make it impossible to believe in God, it just makes it possible not to believe in God."

Another famous bon mot... "With or without religion, good people can behave well and bad people can do evil; but for good people to do evil—that takes religion. Religion is an insult to human dignity. Without it, you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things."

**Tampa Bay  
Coalition of Reason**  
Web site—Jim Peterson  
Editors—[Jim Peterson](#) &  
[Rick O'Keefe](#)

Back & current issues online at:  
<http://www.tampabaycor.net>

**Special Projects**—Mark Brandt  
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event websites at:

<http://bit.ly/2vUJoE1>

*Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the editors, TBCoR, or its member organizations.*

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



# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

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

Vol. XXXIV No. 8 August, 2021

## American Humanist Association 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

### Dr. *Anthony Fauci* named... Humanist of the Year



I hope you were one of the more than 1,000 people who joined humanists from across the country and around the world this past weekend for the American Humanist Association's 80th Annual Conference.

I just want to say that I was so inspired by our incredible speakers, the vibrant Q&A sessions, and the participation of so many people in the Community Boards, networking events, and Meet-Ups. Our community has never been stronger. I enjoyed spending time with all of you and I hope you enjoyed all the Conference had to offer!

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Yours in humanism,

**Nicole Carr**, Development Director, AHA

The **United Nations Association of Tampa Bay** (UNA-Tampa Bay) is a non-profit, membership organization that is part of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA). The mission of the UNA-USA is to inform the American public of the principles and activities of the United Nations, to engage the public to support these principles, and to encourage the United States to take an active leadership role in the United Nations. UNA-Tampa Bay pursues the mission of the UNA-USA in a regional scope by interacting with Tampa Bay Communities through education, empowerment, and advocacy. <https://unatampabay.org/>



Especially exciting was the Humanist of the Year award that we presented to **Dr. Anthony Fauci**. In his acceptance remarks, he spoke about the importance of supporting truth and evidence-based science—values that are at the core of humanism. If you missed his remarks, we'll be posting a recording in the coming days, so be sure to keep an eye on your inbox!

In the face of rising COVID-19 case numbers, Dr. Fauci's work is more important than ever. More and more, this is a pandemic of the unvaccinated, [as less than three percent of people hospitalized with COVID-19 infections are vaccinated](#).

Now, more than ever, trust in science. Get vaccinated. And wear a mask—at least indoors—even if you're vaccinated.



*The Humanist Society has maintained an enlightened presence on the Florida Suncoast sine 1987.*

**Please Join or renew**  
**Humanist Society of the Suncoast**

### Annual Dues

- Regular - \$25
- Reg. Couple - \$30.
- Supporter - \$35/40 (With pin above)
- Life - \$200. (Inc. Pin)
- Life Couple - \$250 (Pins)
- 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, **Scott Wilson** [scott33761@yahoo.com](mailto:scott33761@yahoo.com)*

*If new, please give info below; if renewing just indicate your name & any changes from our previous information. Thanks!*

Name: Address –if new : City, State, Zip  
Phone, E-mail: (Privacy respected)

Send check made out to:  
**"Scott Wilson"**

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

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



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

## Restoring Illumination?

A philosopher is a person who knows less and less about more and more, until he knows nothing about everything.



## 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

5. What was Nietzsche's chief complaint after visiting Egypt? It was too Nile-istic

1. What do you end up with if you cross a rhetorical question with a joke? Something that has no punchline.

2. How does an art student differ from a philosophy student ordering a burger? A philosophy student asks you why they would like potato fries with that.

3. What are physics jokes in a philosophy class called? Blasphemy!.

4. What do you get when you mix philosophy with math? A topic named ' $\sqrt{2}$  Success.'

5. What is a wolf that loved studying philosophy called? A self-aware wolf.

6. How can you make a philosophy student get off your porch? Just pay them for the pizza.

7. How is math different from philosophy? To solve math, you will need a pencil, paper, and eraser. For philosophy, you will only need a pencil and paper.

8. What do philosophy students say about the Mariana Trench? It is deep.

9. What is a monk who has a philosophy degree called? A deep friar.

10. What did the student say when he was asked if his philosophy degree was useful? He replied, "I don't know. Was it?"

11. What do dolphins think when they graduate from college with philosophy honors? What's their porpoise now.

12. What do people do when they go to a philosophy and comedy convention? Laugh more than they think.

## 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**,  
**Lois Fries**, Secretary  
**Dave Kovar**,  
**Brad Perryman** Vice Pres.  
**Jim Peterson**, President  
**Scott Wilson**, Treasurer  
**Jordan Williams**.

**Emeritus members:** Terry Eckstein, Dr. Jon Green, Mark Kligman, Dr. Jack Robinson, Dec. Jerry Moore, Anita Garcia, Mark Winterbottom, Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn Paul, Kay Paul, Dec. Don Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard, Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler, Marios Psomas, Dec, Steve Brown

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**Jim Peterson**, Editor  
E-Mail us at:  
[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

## Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,  
**Click:**

**Secular Therapy Org.**  
**Cognitive Neurosciences**

**Or call:**

**Linda Falkner**

[www.allfloridaonline.com](http://www.allfloridaonline.com).

813-620-4900.

[Linda@cheercounseling.com](mailto:Linda@cheercounseling.com)

**Or, Lynda Gurvitz,**

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

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

(727) 725-8820

**Or, Joel Schmidt**

[www.floatoncounseling.com](http://www.floatoncounseling.com)

321-604-7637





Representing the humanist movement, advocating on its behalf, and promoting humanist values at the United Nations and other international bodies is a core role and function of **Humanists International**.

Our work focuses on those rights that are threatened, abused or undermined by harmful traditional, cultural and religious practices. We have a specific concentration on freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief, the rights of women, LGBTI equality and the rights of the child. We also speak out against forms of discrimination based on race and nationality.

Humanists International is an international NGO with: Special Consultative Status at the United Nations in Geneva, Vienna, and New York (including General Consultative Status at UNICEF); observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul); General Consultative Status at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg), and a partner in human rights with UNESCO (Paris).

We also engage with the European Commission, European Parliament and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).



In 2014, the American Humanist Association and Foundation Beyond Belief announced the merger of their respective charitable programs Humanist Charities and Humanist Crisis Response to encourage humanist giving. [Humanist Disaster Recovery](#), this new joint project of the AHA and FBB, exists to provide financial support to secular organizations working locally to meet the needs of recovering survivors.

Recent recovery giving campaigns have helped relief efforts with The Texas snow disaster, Hurricanes Harvey & Irma, famine in East Africa, flooding in Louisiana, earthquakes in Ecuador & Nepal, and much more.

## Humanist Quotes

### The Afterlife?

Being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or [punishment](#) after you are dead.

- *Kurt Vonnegut*

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.

- *Will Rogers*

I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library.

- *J.K. Rowling*

The real question of life after death isn't whether or not it exists, but even if it does what problem this really solves.

- *Ludwig Wittgenstein*

All goes onward and outward, nothing collapses, And to die is different from what any one supposed, and luckier.

- *Walt Whitman*

I don't believe in an afterlife, so I don't have to spend my whole life fearing hell, or fearing heaven even more. For whatever the tortures of hell, I think the [boredom](#) of heaven would be even worse.

- *Isaac Asimov*

The chief problem about death, incidentally, is the fear that there may be no afterlife -- a depressing thought, particularly for those who have bothered to shave. Also, there is the fear that there is an afterlife but no one will know where it's being held.

- *Woody Allen*

Many a struggle is lost for the want of a good aphorism. JP

[Click here](#)



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

## A Violent Future?

By *Richard Heinberg*

“Almost three decades ago, Jack Goldstone, published a [simple model](#) to determine a country’s vulnerability to political crisis. The model was based on how population changes shifted state, elite and popular behavior. Goldstone argued that, according to this Demographic-Structural Theory, in the 21st century, America was likely to get a populist, America-first leader who would sow a whirlwind of conflict. Then ten years ago, the other of us, Peter Turchin, [applied](#) Goldstone’s model to US history, using current data. What emerged was alarming: The US was heading toward the highest level of vulnerability to political crisis seen in this country in over a hundred years. Even before Trump was elected, Turchin [published](#) his prediction that the US was headed for the ‘Turbulent Twenties,’ forecasting a period of growing instability in the United States and western Europe.”

As causes of unrest, the authors cite the behavior of elites over recent decades, who have been soaking up ever-larger shares of national wealth, starving the rest of society of the means to maintain infrastructure, educate children, and provide affordable health care. Further, many leaders are increasingly seeking to take advantage of existing divisions among the populace, thereby

deepening political polarization and eroding trust in institutions.

Trump was defeated in the presidential election of 2020; but, as Turchin and Goldstone forecast, he responded by questioning the election’s legitimacy. The effect has been to undermine his followers’ confidence in the country’s entire political process.

It has just [come to light](#) that, in the final days of his regime, Trump was acting in such a deranged manner that the Chairman of Joint Chiefs, Mark Milley, feared the outgoing president would try to stage a military coup. Milley warned the heads of the US military branches, conducted daily update calls with the White House Chief of Staff, and likened the Commander in Chief’s efforts to retain power to those of Adolf Hitler in the final hours of the Third Reich.

The insurrection in Washington, DC, on January 6, stoked by Trump himself, set a new and frightening national precedent for civil violence. In recent days Trump has [praised](#) the insurrectionists, and Republican lawmakers have backpedaled on initial condemnations.

As the Capitol building in Washington was being attacked on January 6, state houses across the country were mobbed by Trump supporters; the New Mexico State House was evacuated. More recently, two men are alleged to have planned to attack the Democratic Party headquarters building in Sacramento.

While tensions build, the Biden administration is seeking to spread the nation’s wealth around a bit more evenly, by proposing to put significant amounts of money into infrastructure projects and by offering direct payments to parents. There’s even talk of raising taxes on high earners. These happen to be exactly the sorts of measures that Turchin and Goldstone advised in their article (which someone on the Biden team assuredly read): “What we need,” the scientists wrote, “is a new social contract that will enable us to get past extreme polarization to find consensus, tip the shares of economic growth back toward workers and improve government funding for public health, education and infrastructure.”

But the Biden wish list must somehow become law, and the path to that outcome is unclear. Political divisions within Congress appear to be too deep, with Republicans determined to stop Democrats from achieving anything whatsoever. Among the Republican base, Trump remains popular, and he is the current poll choice as the party’s presidential candidate in 2024.

The next likely key development in this unfolding drama was initiated by the indictment of the Trump organization and its chief financial officer, Allen Weisselberg, earlier this [fall](#). [Analysts](#) believe that this move could be a prelude

Violence” from Page 5

to the indictment of Trump himself, along with his children (who are all officers of the organization), perhaps by the end of the year.

If indicted, Trump probably won't be able to beat the charges in court. The evidence of tax fraud will likely be incontrovertible, consisting of company records, reportedly including [signed checks](#), backed by testimony from underlings who have “flipped” in return for immunity. Trump's best hope to avoid conviction and the possibility of prison may be to stoke even more civil violence—that is, to create so much chaos that the legal system can no longer function, or so that he can effectively blackmail the government into backing down on prosecutions in exchange for stand-down orders from him to his belligerent followers. Anyone who thinks Trump wouldn't stoop this low simply hasn't been paying attention.

By the 2024 presidential election, and perhaps even by the 2022 midterms, we could be in a situation in which violence on the part of Trump's followers is so commonplace that it elicits little mainstream media comment unless the body count sets a grim new record. Both sides will be confident that opponents are cheating, either by rigging the vote or by denying potential voters access to the polls. Where things go from there is uncertain, but so far there is no credible pathway to compromise and peace. In the past, socio-political fires like this have usually burned themselves out eventually—but not before a lot of people got hurt.

It's as if a profoundly dissonant subliminal chord is being sounded throughout America, just below the auditory threshold. Nobody quite hears it, but everyone feels it. Everybody wants the chord to resolve, but the pathways toward harmony are contradictory and mutually exclusive. The dissonance is driving everyone crazy, making them irritated and ornery. But, much as we all yearn for it, there is

## CFI Insider Series

Center for Inquiry is proud to present [CFI Insider](#), a new monthly web series highlighting the work and programs of CFI and featuring world-class researchers, authors, thinkers, and luminaries affiliated with the Center for Inquiry. Join us from the comfort of your laptop (or any other screen), wherever you are in the world and stay up to date on the latest from CFI. Free registration is required for these online lectures. Visit the site for details and registration, and check back for additional events.

## Support CFI Today

At the heart of what we do at CFI is our ongoing commitment to work tirelessly for a secular society based on reason, science, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values.

[Your membership gift](#) of \$60 or more, or \$5 or more monthly, will help fuel this fight for one full year. When you join this exclusive group of insiders, you'll gain access to members-only communication, private event invitations, special donor recognition, and other great benefits.

<https://bit.ly/3jxTYEW>

Already a CFI member? Thank you! We'll extend your membership for a year with your gift today.

*Donations over \$60 include membership benefits*

Members receive special insider access and perks. It's our way of thanking you for what you mean to CFI.

Your gift of at least \$60 or \$5/month includes the following for one year:

- ⇒ ⇒ Advance invitations to events
- ⇒ ⇒ Presale tickets and special discounts
- ⇒ ⇒ Quarterly Freethought in Action newsletter

Join us in preparing the people of the Tampa Bay Region to live in balance with our resources.

The end of the carbon age is now in sight. The readily available forms of carbon; oil, coal, and gas, which supplied cheap energy for the industrial revolution, have been consumed, or are too dangerous for our climate, to use.

- ◇ ◇ Alternative energy
- ◇ ◇ City/state Planning
- ◇ ◇ Resource Allocation
- ◇ ◇ Individual Planning
- ◇ ◇ Preserve precious liberties



According to Americans United, the Supreme Court has announced that it will hear *Carson v. Makin* next term, a case that could determine whether taxpayers are required to pay for religious instruction.

**This case could have major implications for all students.**

The Supreme Court's decision to hear *Carson v. Makin* puts taxpayers' religious freedom into the hands of a 6-3 conservative majority.

Last year, the court required states to include religious schools in private school voucher programs. **Now it could cross the final line and require taxpayers to pay for religious instruction. There will be more on this as developments occur. The right wing religions are pushing hard.**

# 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



Be sure to come on in for AoF's regular Sunday evening Zoom sessions starting at 5:00 PM. See our listings below, or on the TB-CoR Meetup for topics and times.

For linking information, see our notices on the Coalition of Reason Meetup page, or on [www.aof.ngo](http://www.aof.ngo). Please RSVP.

## AoF's Sunday Zoom

Date	Leader	Event
8/1/21	juggling lessons	<a href="#">Street Epistemology</a>
8/8/21	Association of Secular Elected Officials panel	<a href="#">Secular Officials</a>
8/15/21	Dr Linda Elder	<a href="#">Foundation for Critical Thinking</a>
8/22/2021	Johnathan Pearce	<a href="#">A Tippling Philosopher</a>
9/5/2021	<a href="#">Randall Balmer</a>	<a href="#">Solemn Reverence: The Separation of Church and State in American Life</a>

## Do you know what your legislature Is up to?

AoF submitted a short survey on **religious freedom** to candidates for the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate, and the US House of Representatives. We are posting the responses on our website as they are received. You can visit the information at <https://www.atheistsofflorida.org/2020-candidates>. (NOTA BENE: We did this through email, so only those candidates for whom we could find an email address are included.) JMA



## Always Vigilant

Public school prayer events are generally billed as being student-organized in order to *appear* constitutional.

But in reality, school staff are often actively involved, even to the extent that they're the ones organizing the event.

To stop this unconstitutional Christian proselytizing, someone needs to expose the adult organizers. That's where we come in!

Let us know of any church-state violation you may run across - restrictions, prayers, bible readings, etc. We'll take it from there. Thanks, [www.aof.ngo](http://www.aof.ngo)

Coming soon...

[www.freethought.news](http://www.freethought.news)

A new web service to the entire community providing an aggregate of events around the nation and world, significant to people who care deeply about freedom. It will be updated continuously. Let us know how you like it.

**For over 27 years, Atheists of Florida Inc. has attempted to provide much needed information about religion and the alternatives to religion which have proved to be so liberating for so many of us.**

**We invite you to explore the many written and audio video presentations from our library.**

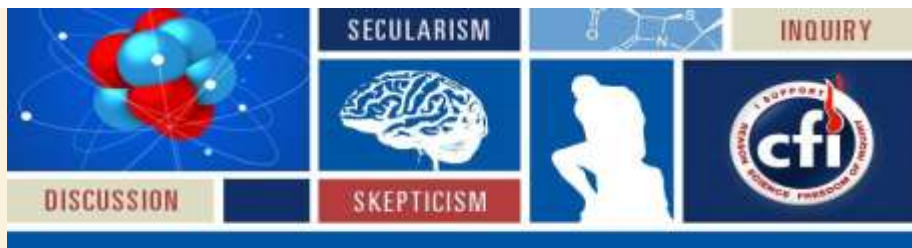
The radio/TV broadcasts are on extended hiatus for now. However, previous programs, most with discussions of timeless interest, are available **on the internet at:** [www.youtube.com/atheistforum](http://www.youtube.com/atheistforum).



For now, tune in to **the Voice of Reason, Thursday at 10am on WTAN radio** See [page 13](#)! The voice is a private effort led by Ed Golly, who along with Joe Reinhardt and guests supply fresh insights on the world we face.

**Contact us:** [info@atheistsoffloridainc.org](mailto:info@atheistsoffloridainc.org)





Incorporated in Florida on October 3, 2002. Only with *your support* can we succeed.

## Saving Environmentalism

The global emergencies of climate change and environmental destruction are very real and require science-based solutions, but all too often these crises are confronted by an environmental movement that has embraced fantasy and fringe beliefs. In the latest issue of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, David Mountain confronts environmentalism's penchant for hostility toward science and technology, showing that when life on Earth is in the balance, good intentions aren't enough.

Charting the movement's wariness of science from the 1920s to today, Mountain laments that the marrying of spiritualism and New Age beliefs with environmental activism has been self-defeating, muddying an existential cause in the popular imagination. "The hope of escaping modernity for some rural idyll was a pipe dream even in the 1920s," writes Mountain. "Today it's deluded to the point of being dangerous."

Mountain cites the examples of the baseless opposition to genetically modified crops and the overhyping of organic farming and the wholesale rejection of nuclear power as a tool for combating global warming.

Read David Mountain's *Skeptical Inquirer* cover story, "Environmentalism and the Fringe," free online.

"There are millions and millions and millions of atheists in America," said Robyn Blumner, *President and CEO, Center for Inquiry*. "But we are invisible. We have no political power. We can be dismissed by politicians with utter impunity. We can be insulted and we can be ignored and there is no political cost for it.

"And why is that? Because we are too quiet."

*Pensar*, revista iberoamericana para la ciencia y la razón, publicada por el Center For Inquiry para el público de habla hispana, es una invitación al libre pensamiento y al pensamiento crítico. También, una vía para conocer todo acerca de las pseudociencias (falsas ciencias) y el mundo esotérico, analizando las evidencias disponibles mediante la razón y el método científico. Si piensas que éstos últimos son más eficaces que la creencia a ciegas, entonces ¡suscríbete!

Subscribe to "The Humanist Magazine You Can Trust". Enjoy print or online access to the latest *Free Inquiry* articles on your computer, phone, or tablet! <https://bit.ly/30vOCRp>

Subscribe to *Skeptical Inquirer* at Just \$2.80 an Issue! SI promotes scientific inquiry, critical thinking, science education, and the use of reason in examining controversial and extraordinary claims through rigorous reporting and investigation. <https://bit.ly/32G8q7C>



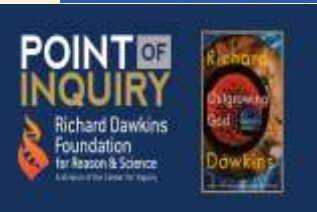
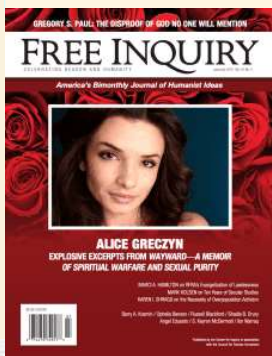
July  
2021 ↓

**The Atlantic:** Expect the Unexpected From the Delta Variant

**The Verge:** India's healthcare workers are busting misinformation on WhatsApp

**The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists:** We've analyzed thousands of COVID-19 misinformation narratives. Here are six regional takeaways

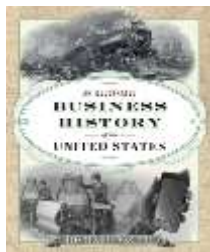
**Skeptical Raptor:** COVID vaccine during pregnancy – uptake lagging in the USA





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**.



Author Richard Vague divides this history into fourteen eras, with each era featuring lists of the wealthiest individuals, notable inventions, and companies founded, and the largest organizations, banks, and insurance companies. Much of the data to create these lists stems from original research,

and the book contains a wealth of primary business information extended and supplemented on a companion website.

Major themes include the nation's business beginnings in land and real estate, the pivotal place of financial institutions from the nation's earliest days, America's emergence as an industrial powerhouse, its outsized innovations, the dominance of its railways, automobiles, and other transportation companies, and the ever-changing role of government. As the book moves to the contemporary era, it highlights the merchandising of

comfort, entertainment, and controversy, and looks to the future as it touches on the potential of emerging industries such as genetic engineering, green energy, and virtual reality.

A must read for any student of American history, the book covers both catastrophe and triumph, innovation and failure, and provides a crucial context for a better understanding of the nation's political and social history. Lushly illustrated with 300 color images, it is equally rewarding for those who want to read it cover to cover and those who prefer to focus on select eras of special interest.

Competitive Strategy:

### ***Is the Business of America Still Business?***

by Niall Ferguson, From the Magazine (June 2013), *Harvard Business Review*

It was his only one-liner. In January 1925 President Calvin Coolidge—nicknamed “Silent Cal” for his taciturnity—declared, “The chief business of the American people is business.” Is that still true? When I moved from the United Kingdom to the United States, I certainly assumed so.



Yet evidence to the contrary is accumulating. In 2012 Michael Porter and Jan Rivkin showed that graduates of Harvard Business School overwhelmingly favor foreign over U.S. locations for new investment. They asked HBS alumni about 607 decisions in which they'd been involved

comfort, entertainment, and controversy, and looks to the future. A must read for any student of American history, the book covers both catastrophe and triumph, innovation and failure, and includes 300 color images.

on whether or not to offshore operations. The U.S. retained the business in only 16% of those cases. Asked why they favored foreign locations, the respondents listed the areas in which they saw America falling behind the rest of the world. The top 10 included effectiveness of the political system, simplicity of the tax code, regulation, efficiency of the legal framework, and flexibility in hiring and firing.

Such survey data would be less disturbing if they weren't corroborated elsewhere. In the World Economic Forum's most recent Global Competitiveness Report, the U.S. doesn't make the top 20 on 21 out of 22 measures of institutional quality. On eight it doesn't make even the top 50. Example: It ranks 59th on the basis of executives' answers to the question “To what extent do government officials in your country show favoritism to well-connected firms and individuals when deciding upon policies and contracts?” Crony capitalism used to be what Americans complained about in Asia. No longer. At least seven Asian countries now score above the U.S. on this measure.

Many development economists argue that poor countries can get richer if they improve their institutions, particularly the rule of law. The converse also applies: Rich countries can get poorer if their institutions deteriorate, particularly the rule of law. Today only lawyers think the United States has the world's best legal system. Everyone else knows it has become a nightmare of impossibly complicated statutes (example: Dodd-Frank), open-ended liability (tort costs are the highest in the industrialized world relative to GDP), and eye-watering billable hours.

The evidence is all around. According to the Fraser Institute, the U.S. has seen a sharp decline in the quality of its legal system and property rights since 2000. ...

Read the rest here: <https://bityl.co/7gGC>

*“Not to oppose error is to approve it; and not to defend truth is to suppress it; and indeed to neglect to confound evil men, when we can do it, is no less a sin than to encourage them.”*

~ Pope Felix III



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!](#)



## The Storm Is Upon Us: How QAnon Became a Movement, Cult, and Conspiracy Theory of Everything

Featuring: Mike Rothschild

Thursday, August 5th – 7:00 PM ET

[Click to ---> REGISTER NOW](#)

On *Skeptical Inquirer* presents, Mike Rothschild explains the background conspiracies and cults that fed the Q phenomenon, from its embrace by right-wing media and Donald Trump, through the rending of families as loved ones became addicted to Q's increasingly violent rhetoric, to the storming of the Capitol, and on.

And as the phenomenon shows no sign of calming despite Trump's loss of the presidency—with everyone from Baby Boomers to Millennial moms proving susceptible to its messaging—and politicians starting to openly espouse its ideology, Rothschild makes a compelling case that mocking the seeming madness of QAnon will get us nowhere. Rather, his impassioned reportage makes clear it's time to figure out what QAnon really is — because QAnon and its relentlessly dark theory of everything isn't done yet.

Mike Rothschild, author of *The Storm Is Upon Us: How QAnon Became a Movement, Cult, and Conspiracy Theory of Everything*, is a journalist focused on the intersections between internet culture and politics as seen through the dark glass of conspiracy theories. Since 2018, he has specialized in examining the QAnon conspiracy cult, and is one of the first journalists to reveal its connections to past conspiracy theories and

scams. Rothschild's expertise has led to his becoming a leading commentator on the subject for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, CNN, MSNBC, the BBC, and elsewhere.

## TBS "\$1,000 Challenge" Poker-Card Player Folds

By Gary P. Posner

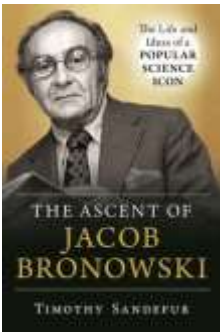
On July 8, I fielded an unsigned e-mail from someone claiming the ability to name correctly “a full deck of poker playing cards” and wishing to take the Tampa Bay Skeptics “\$1,000 Challenge” online. I instead offered him, on the “honor system,” six practice attempts to name merely *the top four cards* of a face-down and freshly shuffled (for each attempt) deck, thus easing his odds to roughly 1:1,000,000 by chance guesswork. A properly controlled and witnessed “\$1,000 Challenge” would be conducted by TBS at a later date should he succeed with me.

Informed that my deck was shuffled and ready for trial #1, he provided *two* predictions: (1) King of spades, 7 of clubs, 4 of hearts, Jack of clubs. (2) King of spades, 7 of clubs, 4 of hearts, Joker. He was obviously uncertain about card #4, though as I replied to him, “Joker” was a poor choice for a “52-card” deck. But no matter, since the actual cards were: 2 of clubs, Jack of diamonds, 3 of spades, 5 of clubs. And his next four trials were, predictably, no more successful.

*Tampa Bay Skeptics is reactivated, so take part and rejoin: <http://bit.ly/1SkFjri>*

## Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info



Jacob Bronowski (18 January 1908 – 22 August 1974) was a Polish-British mathematician and historian. He is best known for developing a humanistic approach to science, and as the presenter and writer of the thirteen-part 1973 BBC television documentary series, and accompanying book, *The Ascent of Man*, which led to his regard as "one of the world's most celebrated intellectuals".

"Before Neil deGrasse Tyson, Richard Dawkins, and Carl Sagan, there was Jacob Bronowski, a world-class scientist, caring humanist, elegant poet, magisterial writer, and inimitable host of the first documentary science series, *The Ascent of Man*. That millennials and Generation Z are unfamiliar with his name makes this biography the first of this Renaissance man all the more vital, as science becomes ripped apart by political divisiveness and the need for a unifying message calls out for a voice. Listen to Dr. Bronowski and read this book." Michael Shermer

From Descartes to designer babies, *The Philosophy Gym* poses questions about some of history's most important philosophical issues, ranging in difficulty from pretty easy to very challenging. **Stephen Law** brings new perspectives to age-old conundrums while also tackling modern-day dilemmas -- some for the first time. Begin your warm up by contemplating whether a pickled sheep can truly be considered art, or dive right in and tackle the existence of God. In this radically new way of looking at philosophy, The author illustrates the problem with a story, then lets the argument battle it out in clear, easily digestible and intelligent prose. This perfect little mental health club is sure to give each reader's mind a great workout.

Global warming: it's one of the hottest scientific and political issues of today. And yet we've all found ourselves asking...

- It's freezing outside--where's global warming now?
- Climate is always changing--how do we know this isn't just a cycle?
- Why should Christians care about global warming when we know the world won't end that way?

For all the talk about climate change, there's still a great deal of debate about what it all means, especially among Christians. A *CLIMATE FOR CHANGE* offers straightforward answers to these questions, without the spin. This book untangles the complex science and tackles many long-held misconceptions about global warming. Authored by a climate scientist and a pastor, A *CLIMATE FOR CHANGE* boldly explores the role our Christian faith can play in guiding our opinions on this important global issue.

## The Matt Cooper Memorial 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. **Brad Perryman** is our new librarian.

### 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
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. 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 Eggers
74. Reporting at Wit's End St. Clair McKelway
75. Corporations are not People Clements
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president? Cragun - Phillips



Keep your local bookstore in business. Shop locally. <https://www.indiebound.org/>

## 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.

We strongly emphasize creative childrearing. You can connect with other families dealing with the same problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly humanist way of life.

Jennifer wrote three books: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, & *The Bully Vaccine*.

Humanist Families organizes social outings every month.

Come and do something fun, socialize, enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, a museum, go swimming, & sometimes we leave the kids at home. We organize Tampa & 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. Please join us on [Facebook](#).

### The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers (MAAF)

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 freethinking members. Learn more [HERE](#).

## Tampa Bay Thinkers

Be part of the conversation on Monday **July 12** online at 7 PM

Topic: TBA

See our Meetup page for meeting [link](#)

We meet monthly to escape shallow, petty talk and to ponder broad, complex yet practical subjects. We expect members to proffer evidence and use logic in conclusions, but expect all present to keep the meeting FUN for all. We teach, and don't scold. We expect the conversation to move without getting stuck so sometimes, we are forced to "agree to disagree" and move on.

We arrive and part as friends. There are no personal attacks, but each IDEA goes under the microscope. Members agree, others disagree, often with enthusiasm! We have no gates, and no gatekeepers. All are welcome and we tolerate no personal attacks, sarcasm, or even indirect denigration. IDEAS RULE and stand on their own. Finally, we are "thinkers", not "doers". Come, join us, participate, learn, exercise your brain, but mostly HAVE FUN. Learn more [here](#).

*Karen Assel, Leader*



## The Socrates Cafe

A monthly discussion since 2008.

Hosted by **Brent Hardaway**

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/38mveZH>

Join us for a Socratic discussion...

## Will Computers Eventually Be Able To Replace A Human?

**Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM ET on Zoom.**

See our [Meetup page](#) for the RSVP.



**Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay** welcomes all who are interested in Jewish history, culture, and tradition independent of supernatural explanations. We believe human beings are responsible for their own choices and making the world a better place through science and reason. Join us for discussions, lectures, cultural events, and holiday celebrations using a Humanistic lens.

**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.

### UU St. Pete Thursday Citizens' Café

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

100 Mirror Lake Dr. N., St. Petersburg

### UU Humanists of Clearwater

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

### UU Humanists of Tampa

Public Discussion, 2nd Thursday eve from 7-9 PM.

11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa



**Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.**  
Sarasota, Florida

HUSBAY is only holding meetings on Wednesdays via Zoom. We don't plan the topics much in advance. People interested in joining us can contact [dbhelgager@comcast.net](mailto:dbhelgager@comcast.net) or text to 941-350-0927.

## 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 such as Darwin Day in February, Solstice day in December, and other activities all year long.

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 West Central Florida groups identified with the secular, freethought, Humanist, Atheist movement.*

Hear a secular point of view on local radio.

Listen to:

*The Voice of Reason*

on WTAN Radio Network AM 1340 from Clearwater. Thursdays at 10 AM



## USF Freethinkers

**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: Contact: <https://orgsync.com/87429/chapter>

## University of South Florida Humanities Institute !

### MISSED AN EVENT?

Video recordings of the 2nd Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference hosted on January 28-29, 2021 are available to view online. [Click here to watch.](#)

Recordings of Spring '21 events are available on our GoToStage channel. [Click here to watch.](#) (Name and Email required to view)

See you again in the Fall semester!

### 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. Questions? send an email to: [spaceaminer@gmail.com](mailto:spaceaminer@gmail.com).

**Meetings** are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November & December when it is on the third Friday) at the St. Petersburg College/Gibbs Campus, 6605 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710, at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)



### M.A.R.S. – Tampa Astronomy Club

Come 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



### TBCoR Leadership Team 2021

Eileen Stafford, AoF	Bill Norsworthy, UUCH	Mark Brandt, UUCH	Chris Brown, MASH	Jenn Hancock, GTBHF	Rick O'Keefe, CFI	David Vangsness, TBS	Jim Peterson, HSS, TBPCC, CoR Facilitator
-------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	----------------------	------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------	---



## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – August, 2021 Calendar

Because of resurgent virus, **all gatherings in-person are cancelled pending further notice.**

See our Meetup site or the organization for more ONLINE:

[www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason](http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason)



CFI in BRANDON – Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Nights	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Details & RSVP: <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>
Statewide – Tampa Based <b>Atheists of Florida, Inc.</b>	Details & RSVP: <a href="http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup">http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup</a>
West Central Florida & beyond – <b>Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc.</b>	Details & RSVP: <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>
DUNEDIN – <b>Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast</b> , see Pg. 2	Details & RSVP <a href="http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists">http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists</a> Zoom usually on the <b>2nd Saturday</b> at 2 PM !
E. CLEARWATER– <b>UU Clearwater Humanists</b>	Details: <a href="http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists">http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists</a>
E. TAMPA– <b>Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI</b>	Details & RSVP: <a href="http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi">http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi</a> Other events: <a href="http://bit.ly/MARS-home">http://bit.ly/MARS-home</a>
E. TAMPA– <b>Humanities Institute at USF</b>	See <a href="#">Web site</a> for full listing of many events & calendar. <a href="http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities">http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities</a> Locations vary! <b>Page 12.</b>
N. PINELLAS AREA – <b>CFI Freethought Supper</b>	<b>Not meeting pending resumption of “normal life”</b> , Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI &amp; TBS paid members only + one time guest.</i> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>
New TAMPA – <b>Tampa Humanist Assoc.</b>	Details & RSVP: <b>No program until life resumes!</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists">http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists</a>
ZOOM – <b>CFI Readers Book Discussion</b>	Limited to <i>10 paid-up CFI members</i> . <b>RSVP is required. <i>Must have read the book under discussion to attend.</i></b> <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>
ZOOM – <b>Tampa Bay Thinkers</b>	Lively monthly discussions. Know the topic or get laughed at. <b>RSVP</b> here: <a href="http://bit.ly/2DVtwCd">http://bit.ly/2DVtwCd</a>
ST. PETERSBURG– <b>Astronomy Club</b>	For several dates monthly, locations, & details: <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar</a>
TAMPA BAY REGION– <b>Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay</b>	Local & national Zooms until Covid is dealt with. Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I">http://bit.ly/2ljTe9I</a>
TAMPA BAY REGION– <b>Humanist Families</b>	<b>For families only!</b> Family outings & other monthly activities. Details & RSVP: <a href="http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN">http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN</a>