

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News



Vol. 10 No. 7 July 2021

Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

What's Inside?

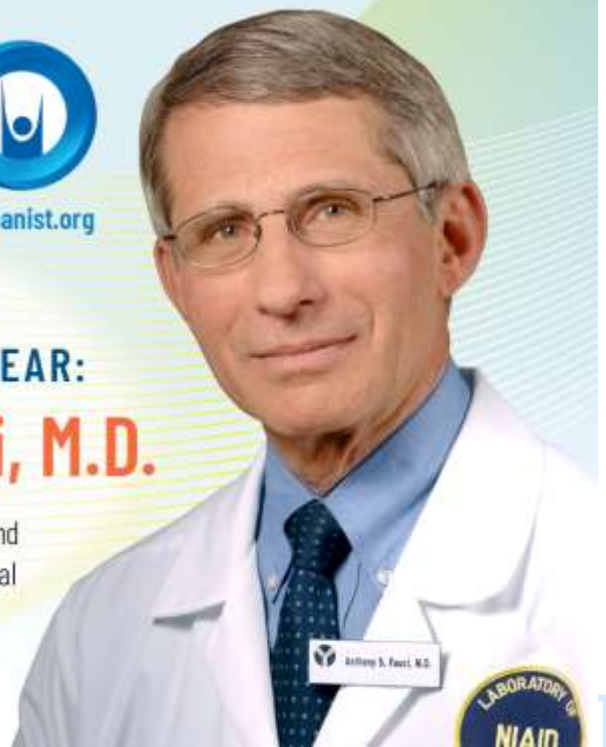
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American Humanist Association
80th Annual Conference
July 24-25, 2021 | conference.americanhumanist.org

Join us as we honor the
2021 HUMANIST OF THE YEAR:

Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.

Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Chief Medical Advisor to the President on COVID-19



See Next page

Seth Shostak: Why Look for E.T. Light-Years Away If He's Already in Our Airspace?



UFOs are suddenly serious business. The Pentagon's confirmation of "unidentified aerial phenomena" has led to a heightened level of excitement and speculation about the possibility of contact with extraterrestrial life. So what's really going on here?

There is perhaps no one better qualified to answer the big questions about the search for intelligent life in the universe than astronomer **Seth Shostak** of the SETI Institute.

He'll be joining us for the next Skeptical Inquirer Presents live online event, Thursday, July 8, at 7 p.m. ET. REGISTER for link: <https://bit.ly.co/7Zu7>

Atheists and humanists, saying they object to being "a mouthpiece for the government's preferred message," are suing Mississippi over the lack of a no-extra-cost alternative to its standard license plate, which includes the phrase "In God We Trust."

To get a design without a mention of God, a vehicle owner must pay an additional fee for one of the state's [specialty plates](#), such as I Care For Animals and Dyslexia Awareness. The cost for most specialty plates is an additional \$33 a year. AA and AHA are pursuing this.

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.**

Tampa Bay
Coalition of Reason
Web site—Jim Peterson
Editors—**Jim Peterson &**
Rick O'Keefe

Back & current issues online at:

<http://www.tampabaycor.net>

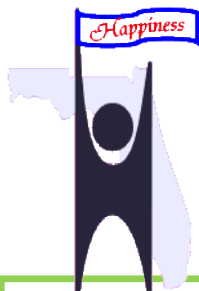
Special Projects—Mark Brandt
& Bill Norsworthy

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

Vol. XXXIV No. 7 July, 2021

American Humanist Association 80th Annual Conference



Glenn Branch
National Center for
Science Education



Rachel Deitch
American Humanist
Association



Lincoln Dow
Jews for a Secular
Democracy



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Secular Student
Alliance



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Atheist Community of
Polk County



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American Humanist
Association



Mary Zhang
Secular Student
Alliance

**AND
MORE!**



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*

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*

July 24th-25th, . Buy your ticket soon.

How do I register for this online conference?

This year, the American Humanist Association will be hosting the virtual conference on Whova, an event management platform. To register, follow the registration links on our Conference website to our Whova registration page. Attendees will be able to access the Conference from their desktop computer or mobile phone by downloading the Whova app.

What is the registration price?

Full Registration is \$15 for access to all conference sessions including all lead-up events. We also offer a \$5 Student Registration for active students, and a \$50 Watch Party Registration for people interested in hosting in-person watch parties.

What is the date and time of the Conference?

The Conference will be held on Saturday, July 24th and Sunday, July 25th from 11:00am – 6:30pm EDT. There will be scheduled breaks throughout the day. Lead-up events begin July 19th and include social events, readings, get-togethers, and more! We'll also hold a virtual Congressional Lobby Day on Monday, July 25th.



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

Restoring Illumination?

There is this invention called a bicycle that "runs on fat and saves you money

Three guys are fishing in the Caribbean.

One guy says, 'My house burnt down. I lost everything but the insurance company paid up and that's why I'm here.'

The second guy says, 'My gas station blew up. I lost everything, but the insurance company paid up and that's why I'm here.'

The third guy says, 'My farm suffered a terrible flood. I lost everything, but the insurance company paid up and that's why I'm here.'

The first guy turns to him and says, 'Flood? How the hell do you start a flood?'

A motorist is making his way down a flooded road after a night of torrential rain.

Suddenly he sees a man's head sticking out of a large puddle.

He stops his car and asks the man if he needs a lift.

'No thanks,' says the man. 'I'm on my bike.'

Harry had a fantastic country house with two wings, sadly it flew off in the last big storm.

A climate scientist and a climate change denier walk into a bar.

The denier says, nice to see you. The climate scientist says, nice to CO2.

Why name hurricanes limp names like Sandy?

Name that nasty Hurricane Death Megatron 300 and I guarantee folks'll be evacuating like they need to.

A climate scientist and a climate change denier walk into a bar. The denier says, bartender, show me your strongest whiskey. The bartender says, this one here. It's 95 percent alcohol. The denier slams down his fist and leaves the bar in a hurry. The scientist says, you know, that's the problem with these guys. You show them the proof, and they still don't buy it.

A climate scientist and a climate change denier walk into a bar. The scientist surveys the room and says to the bartender, I'll have what 99 percent everybody here is having. The bartender turns to the denier and says, how about you? The denier replies, I'll wait to see what the other two percent think?

What did the cow say to the tornado?
You moooooooooooooove me.

ROK

Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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

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~*~*~*~*~*

Jim Peterson, Editor

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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

Freedom

"As it is useful that while mankind are imperfect there should be different opinions; so it is that there should be different experiments in living."

– **John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, 1859**

"I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. ...But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any."

– **Mahatma Gandhi, (1869 -1948)**

"About the gods, I am unable to know whether they exist or do not exist, nor what they are like in form: for there are things that hinder sure knowledge – the obscurity of the subject and the shortness of human life."

– **Protagoras (482-414 BCE)**

"God is a hypothesis, and, as such, stands in need of proof; the onus probandi [burden of proof] rests on the theist."

– **Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Note on Queen Mab; a Philosophical Poem*, 1813**

"If the gods have the will to remove evil and cannot, then they are not all-powerful. If they are neither able nor willing, they are neither all-powerful or benevolent. If they are both able and willing to annihilate evil, why does it exist?"

– **Epicurus, C300 BCE**

"Faith: a firm belief for which there is no evidence."

– **Bertrand Russell, *Human Society in Ethics and Politics*, 1954**

"When I ceased to accept the teaching of my youth, it was not so much a process of giving up beliefs, as of discovering that I had never really believed."

– **Leslie Stephen, *The Aims of Ethical Societies*, 1900**

"My country is the world, and my religion is to do good."

– **Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*, 1791 BHA**

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](#)

Too much Power?

By *Richard Heinberg*

Do some people have too much power over others? Do we humans have too much power over the natural world? These questions get to the heart of our biggest global problems. They also force us to think critically about the way society is organized, and about our own behavior. We often tend to give knee-jerk answers, but too much is at stake for that. We need to think critically and contextually.

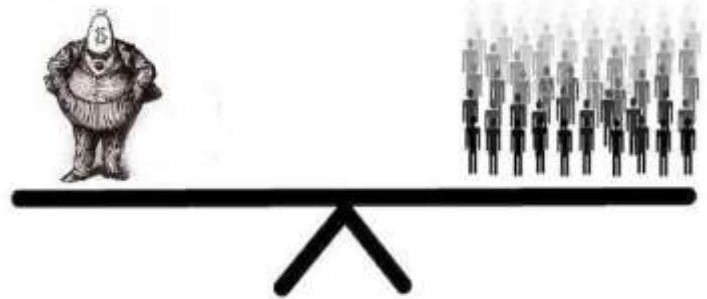
First, what do we mean by power? While the word is used many ways, there are primarily just two kinds of power: physical power and social power. Physical power can be defined as the rate of energy transfer, or as the use of energy to do something; social power is the ability of one person or a group to influence the thoughts and behavior of others.

Nature provides examples of excessive physical power. The wildfires in Sonoma County, California, where I live, can burn with many gigawatts of power. A gigawatt of electrical power that's controlled via power lines, transformers, and circuits can supply light, heat, and internet connections to a small-to-medium-sized city. A gigawatt of radiative power unleashed in a firestorm can torch that same community in just a few hours. We humans can likewise physically overpower our surroundings by using the concentrated energy of fossil fuels to over-harvest natural resources, or by dumping wastes in quantities that nature can't harmlessly absorb.

Too much social power leads to different problems. Cooperation, the ultimate basis of social power, gives us the means to accomplish wonders; but, when it's channeled through elaborate economic systems featuring various forms of debt and investment, social

power can also manifest itself through the pooling of immense amounts of wealth in just a few hands, resulting in needless widespread poverty and eventual civil unrest. That same social power, released in a sudden burst, can lead to the deaths of millions of people through war or genocide.

We intuitively understand that power—whether it's physical or social power—is good only when it remains within certain bounds, restricted by checks and balances.



But we're often not so good at applying that simple insight to our immediate circumstances. For example, many of us complain that corporations, billionaires, or politicians have too much power. Yet, when it comes to our own power, very few of us ever question whether it's excessive. The power that gives us comforts and conveniences nearly always gets a pass—we consistently assume that we need more of it, not less.

My power is fine, but that other person has too much: it's an attitude that seems to define human nature. Yet the hesitancy to critically assess one's own power seems to characterize some people more than others, and some societies more than others. Even within a single society, circumstances may change, encouraging people to become more (or less) modest in their demands for power and unthinking their excuses for over-empowerment.

Psychologists know that some individuals desperately seek material riches, homage, and feelings of superiority. Other people don't; they may lead modest but happy lives oriented toward service to others. What makes some people more power hungry? Often, low self-esteem appears to be a key. Perhaps starting in infancy or childhood, power addicts experienced a vacuum of love and validation, and never learned to enjoy a simple sense of inner stillness. Their lives have become an endless chase for external sources of affirmation and deference. Then, once they've gained disproportionate power in some form, their tendency is to guard that power and to lash out at anyone who threatens it.

Some circumstances seem to promote the emergence of power-seeking behavior. Societies that use money to mediate human needs, as opposed to relying on informal networks of sharing and mutual aid, are more likely to breed power seekers. The same is true of societies with formal institutions characterized by rank and exclusivity (think armies, priesthoods, governments, corporations, and gated communities).

Generally speaking, the more complex and wealthier the society, the more likely it is to foster power-seeking attitudes and behaviors. An empire featuring a rigid class structure domestically, and colonies and trade networks abroad, is far more likely to encourage pathological power hunger among at least some of its members than a small foraging or gardening society whose technologies and customs haven't changed much in thousands of years.

Even in a single society, some kinds of developing circumstances are more likely to trigger power abuse. Times of societal decay can produce warlords and profiteers (think Syria today, or the remnants of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s). On the other hand, periods of rapid societal growth offer opportunity for social climbers to scramble over other people's backs. The clearest example in the latter case is the US in the early-to-mid twentieth century: as the world's top oil producer and exporter, America generated great fortunes (notably, that of John D. Rockefeller), and rose to become the world's economic and military superpower, elevating investors, generals, bureaucrats, and corporate CEOs far above the hoi polloi.

Fossil fuels have done more than create enormous amounts of wealth. As unprecedented sources of physical power, they've also facilitated unsustainable growth in population and consumption, and caused untold environmental destruction. Further, with so much new wealth flowing through society, it was nearly inevitable that some people would capture more of it than others, leading to increasing economic inequality.

One of the consequences of our dependence on fossil fuels is climate change, the most colossal environmental crisis humans have ever created, which can be viewed as being a result of too much power. Here's the argument in a nutshell: nearly everything we use represents a little fire somewhere—usually several of them. Your smart phone? Little fires drove the machines that extracted the raw minerals. Bigger fires smelted the metals. Little fires fueled the vehicles that transported all the parts, sometimes for thousands of miles. More little fires heated, cooled, and powered the various warehouses and assembly plants involved. Pick any object: unless it's a tree or other feature of the natural environment, a fire is implicated. The same is typically true for services—keeping us warm, cool, and provisioned with food, health care, and education. We even need fires to make solar panels and wind turbines (for example: 3,000-degree-Fahrenheit furnace fires that run 24/7 are used to make pure silicon wafers for photovoltaic panels). Granted, over its lifetime a PV panel will entail less fire than a coal or natural gas power plant producing the same amount of electricity. But if we wanted to make a hell of a lot of PV panels right away in order to replace all our coal and gas power plants, enormous short-term fires would have to be stoked.

Hardly anyone wants to give up the benefits—the power—that all those fires provide. But each of those fires, no matter how carefully controlled and efficient, is contributing CO₂ to the atmosphere, speeding up the destabilization of the climate and undermining the viability of civilization.

One seductive (but ultimately baseless) way to avoid this contradiction between the desire for more physical power and the unacceptable consequences of having and using that power is to hope that renewable energy will solve the climate problem painlessly: all we have to do is wait until solar panels become super-cheap. Then, we can use even more energy than we do now, it will just be clean energy. We don't need to give up power; we just need to switch energy technologies. But the actual switch (i.e., the rate at which society is installing renewables and retiring fossil fuel infrastructure) is going far too slowly to avert catastrophic climate change. The core reason is simply that fossil fuels deliver more power than renewables—not just in terms of profits and political donations, but also in terms of energy that's available on demand to do the things an industrial society wants to do, including powering airplanes and ships, mining minerals, and manufacturing products.

If climate change is a problem of power, then there may be no purely technical fix. While technology can help at the margins, averting catastrophic global warming will be mostly a process of reducing total energy usage in a way that doesn't result in societal collapse. Clearly, the people who would need to sacrifice the most are today's biggest energy users. But these happen to be people with a lot of social power, who are well placed to cloud the public discussion and delay substantive action.

Climate change is only one of the symptoms of the large-scale power imbalances and over-concentrations plaguing our society. Other symptoms include deepening economic inequality, loss of wild nature due to increasing human land use, increasingly pervasive hormone-mimicking petrochemical pollution in air and water, and worsening resource depletion that's tied to overpopulation and overconsumption. Fossil fuels, by supplying so much physical power so quickly, have greatly exacerbated all of these problems.

Humans in past societies were well acquainted with the problem of too much power, and devised ways to restrain it. Anthropological research suggests that, in early foraging societies, bullies were routinely [executed or banished](#). Other methods of collective self-restraint included taboos against over-use of natural resources. Here's just one example: the [Bayaka of the Congo](#) placed markers (cones made of big leaves) on paths that led into parts of the forest where hunting had been unsuccessful, thus warning others to avoid it, and giving game populations time to recover. Such practices were widespread and varied. Tribal taboos regulating the harvest of vulnerable species took at least six forms, including “segment taboos,” which forbade individuals of a certain age, sex, or social class from harvesting a resource; “temporal taboos,” which banned the use of a subsistence resource during certain days, weeks, or seasons; “method taboos,” which restricted overly efficient harvesting techniques that might deplete the stock of a resource; “life-history taboos,” that forbade the harvesting of a species during vulnerable periods of its life history such as spawning or nesting; “specific-species taboos,” which protected a species at all times; and “habitat taboos,” which forbade human

Continued on [Page 12](#)

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, For linking information, see our notices on the Coalition of Reason Meetup page, or on www.aof.ngo. Please RSVP.

AoF's Sunday Zoom

Date	Leader	Event
7/11/2021	Michael Polich	TBD
7/18/2021	TBA	
7/25/21	Dennis Augustine	The Clergy Project
8/1/21	juggling lessons	Street Epistomology
8/8/21	Association of Secular Elected Officials panel	Secular Officials
8/15/21	Dr Linda Elder	Foundation for Critical Thinking

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

Coming soon...

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.



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



No Silver Lining in the Fulton Decision

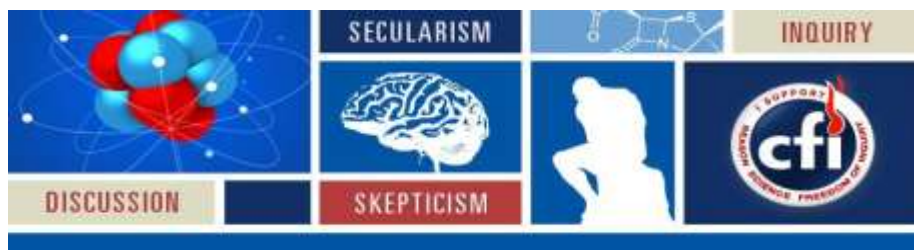


While it's debatable as to whether this specific ruling was "the worst" possible, **Center for Inquiry Legal Director, Nick Little** has made clear that it's still very, very bad, particularly in how it reveals that precedent is immaterial to this Court when it comes to placing religion above the law.

I can't argue for any other lawyer, but the notion of thanking the Supreme Court for not spanking us as hard as they might have done sticks in my craw. The ruling does not, as many emails I received from multiple groups claimed, permit anti-discrimination laws to continue so long as they don't include the offending clause that the Philadelphia one did. The only way of coming to that viewpoint is a naive one, treating this decision as a standalone one and not part of a pattern of Court privilege to religion.

As we have seen in *Hobby Lobby* and in *Trinity Lutheran* (church entitled to state funding of play area renovations), and in *Morrissey-Berru* (religious schools exempt from anti-discrimination laws when firing teachers), and in *Masterpiece Cakeshop* (antigay baker entitled to retrial because person said mean thing about religion), and in *American Legion* (40' Latin cross on public land maintained at public expense isn't a religious symbol), and in *Espinoza* (religious schools entitled to voucher money and reinstatement of program in Montana), this Court will find a way to show that religion was discriminated against, that exemptions are required, and that religion, especially Christianity, will be privileged. We know that when the next case goes up, it will simply not matter that *Smith* has not been reversed. This Court will find a right to discriminate. It is what they do.

There simply isn't a silver lining here. This Court's refusal to officially overrule the *Lemon* test, and its refusal to officially cast aside the *Smith* decision, don't amount to a whole hill of beans in face of its willingness to twist and misinterpret the situation in every case to privilege religion. What might make a difference? Congress passing the Do No Harm Act, stating that RFRA does not provide a right to an exemption that harms third parties, would be a start. It's not a silver bullet, because this Court can still either declare it unconstitutional or simply ignore it, but it would be better than nothing. Without that, we live in a legal system of unchecked religious privilege.



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

Magnetic Vaccine Rumors Attract the Gullible

By [Benjamin Radford](#)

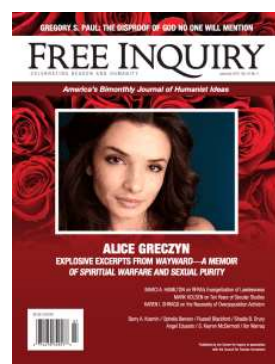
There is of course a long and ever-growing list of misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccines. Both independently and in collaboration with the CFI [Coronavirus Resource Center](#), I've written about countless rumors, conspiracy theories, and outright lies relating to the pandemic, from the *Plandemic* [book publicity stunt](#) to confusion about risk perception.

There's a recent twist: the idea that the vaccines are either magnetic or make people magnetic. You can find many videos on social media of people making the claims (and in some cases debunking them). To be fair, it's not clear how many of the videos and memes are just trolling or mocking the idea. Many of them are obviously staged for a laugh, though others are clearly sincere—and make those involved look sincerely stupid.

Vaccine hesitancy has a long history, and it's not surprising that this particular version would arise, as it's fueled by the "scary technology" theme that also gave rise to rumors about tracking chips planted in the vaccine (which is not only physically impossible but pointless) and of course 5G signals. Many people are concerned that the COVID vaccines are ineffective or untested, though neither is the case. Though the vaccines themselves are of course new (since they were designed to deal with a novel coronavirus), the underlying technology used to make the vaccines has been around for decades. **Magnetics: Mystery or Simple Physics?**

Read the rest: <https://bitly.co/7VT6>

"If you have facts on your side demonstrating that the vaccines are dangerous, surely you would present it. P.T. Barnum is said to have advised that 'If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with bullshit.' This is fine advice for a sideshow pitchman selling snake oil and gaffed freaks, but dangerous when used to deter people from getting a life-saving vaccine."



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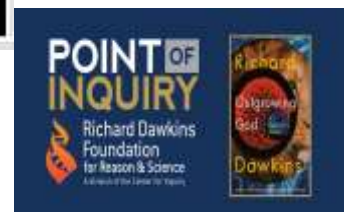
July
2021 ↓

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**.



Phil Zuckerman and Ten Years of Secular Studies at Pitzer College: A Critical Examination

By Mark Kosen

In 2011, Pitzer College offered the first—and still the only—college major in secular studies. The prime mover behind that initiative was Dr. Phil Zuckerman, who in 2011 wrote that he could “sense the thirst out there. So many students, perhaps galvanized by the New Atheists, wanted to take classes that challenged religious worldviews, explored the social construction of religion, articulated rational ethics, provided a social grounding in evolution, and the like” (“Secular Studies Arrives at Last,” *F*/August/September 2011). Buoyed by students’ interest in a course he offered in New Atheism, Zuckerman felt Pitzer—a small liberal arts college in Claremont, California—offered the perfect venue for our nation’s first undergraduate degree program in secular studies. Now a full professor of sociology and secular studies as well as a Pitzer associate dean, Zuckerman spoke with me in May 2020 about the program’s progress as it approaches its tenth anniversary. We also talked about the many books and articles he has written following *Society without God*, first published in 2008 and now in its second edition.

Read the rest: <https://bit.ly/7VUA>

RFRA Was the First ‘Big Lie’

By Marci A. Hamilton

It has taken over twenty years, but Congress is finally holding hearings to limit the impact of the toxic Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) on civil rights. Two bills have been introduced in Congress that would carve back RFRA’s destructive reach—the Equality Act and the Do No Harm Act. Both focus on curtailing the capacity of RFRA to promote discrimination against LGBTQ persons, but the Do No Harm Act further limits the harm that RFRA engenders against the vulnerable, including children.

“Trumps election Big Lie was built on the evangelization of lawlessness that has been operating against the public good since the Moral Majority gained political power. The righteous push for believers to be above the law was sold to Congress and imposed on the American public by RFRA.”

“Secular liberals need to be reminded that prominent African Americans of the past, such as Langston Hughes, W. E. B. Du Bois, Paul Robeson, and James Baldwin, were critics of the institutional role and influence of the Black church and viewed its theology as a barrier to their people’s social progress. It may be unpopular to state it, but many of the deficiencies and scandals we highlight today in the White evangelical churches, such as homophobia and misogyny, also occur in Black Churches. This includes peculation: overly generous clergy compensation and the ostentatious materialism of some prominent pastors serving disadvantaged congregations.” Read the rest: <https://bit.ly/7VV9>

There is no shame in not knowing. The problem arises when irrational thought and attendant behavior fill the vacuum left by ignorance.
Neil deGrasse Tyson



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.

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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

“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!](#)



Dr. Yasmin asks why bad science is sometimes more believable and contagious than the facts. Each easy-to-read chapter covers a specific myth, whether it has endured for many years or hit the headlines more recently. Dr. Yasmin explores such pressing questions as:

- Do cell phones, Nutella, or bacon cause cancer?

quickly lost interest.

President Clinton put the nail in the coffin of American manned space exploration when he opted for "faster, better, cheaper" as the way to go, hoping that the Shuttle program could become as ubiquitous as milk runs. In his turn at the helm, President Bush heralded a broad plan for a Mars mission by 2020. The Constellation program, announced in 2005, envisioned the development of new booster rockets to replace the Shuttle and get us to the moon, and new spacecraft (Orion and Altair) to take humans to the moon and Mars.

After five years of lackluster progress, hampered in large part by a combination of inadequate funding and cost overruns, President Obama recently announced that the Constellation program would be canceled and that America would rely on private industry rather than the federal government to keep the Space Station accessible to astronauts and to get us beyond low-earth orbit and on to the planets and stars.

There has been an outcry of protest since this was announced. The Senators from Florida and Texas (the two states most affected by lost federal jobs and money) have promised opposition to this plan (nothing like federal pork to get politicians from opposite parties together). Former astronauts have bemoaned the abandonment of space exploration. Gene Cernan called the plan "a blueprint for a mission to nowhere."

Not all have been opposed to the new plan, however. The commercial space industry is obviously delighted at the influx of funding that is soon coming its way. Planetary scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory are hoping that some of the unspent human exploration funds will be diverted to their robotic missions. And the American taxpayers will not be asked to foot yet another spending bill in a heavily indebted economy.

In response to such opposition, however, President Obama has indicated that there might be some compromises, allowing development of some additional booster capabilities and a very long-range plan to go to Mars, maybe by 2030.

This history of space flight points to one obvious fact. Our willingness to support a full space program must rely on something beyond its economics. Forget all the talk about how the space program pays for itself in innovations that filter down into society. That is absolutely true, but taxpayers want something for their money right now, not down the road. "Why should I pay for ...

Read the rest: <https://bitly.co/7Sv6>

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

- Are we running out of antibiotics?
- Does playing football cause brain disease?
- Is the CDC banned from studying guns?
- Do patients cared for by female doctors live longer?
- Is trauma inherited?
- Is suicide contagious?
- and much more.

Taking a deep dive into the health and science questions you have always wanted answered, this authoritative and entertaining book empowers readers to reach their own conclusions. *Viral BS* even comes with Dr. Yasmin's handy pull-out-and-keep Bulls*%t Detection Kit.

Selected articles from
VOL. 23 NO. 1 SUMMER 2010

Human Space Exploration: Our History or Our Future?

By [Terry A. Smiljanich](#)

It has been almost 50 years since man first ventured into space (Yuri Gagarin, 1961). Forty years ago, the world was glued to TV sets watching the Apollo 13 crisis play out. Thirty-eight years ago, Gene Cernan became the last man on the moon. The entire history of manned spaceflight beyond low-earth orbit spanned three-and-a-half years. Since then, we have seen lots of big space exploration plans. The current Space Shuttle and International Space Station owe much to Ronald Reagan's desire to see humans maintain a presence in space. George H.W. Bush announced the "Mission to Planet Earth," and put Vice President Quayle in charge of a panel to explore a mission to Mars. When the price tag came in, \$500-billion spread out over two decades, the administration and Congress



exploitation of species within particular reefs or forests that served as biological reserves or sanctuaries. Given the evidence that ancient peoples, as they migrated into new territories, often hunted abundant prey species to the point of extinction, it seems probable that indigenous conservation practices were learned over a long time through trial and error.

In modern societies, methods of collectively restraining the overaccumulation of power have become complex and formalized. We adopt environmental regulations to protect endangered species, prohibit or regulate certain chemicals, and discourage harmful waste dumping. We try to keep economic inequality from worsening by taxing the rich at higher rates, and by implementing redistributive programs for education, housing, and health care. We try to discourage the emergence of despots through constitutions and elections.

However, all such efforts are uphill battles, because modern society is fundamentally structured to require economic growth (which nearly always comes at the expense of nature), and because newly created wealth tends to flow primarily toward those with existing social power. Once again, fossil fuels are largely responsible: as our society's primary energy sources, they are also our ultimate sources of wealth. We have derived so much power from these fuels, and in such a brief period of time, that our institutional pathways of restraint are increasingly overwhelmed. Further, traditional values of self-restraint, modesty, mutual aid, and thrift have fallen by the wayside with the rise of consumerism, and we have deluded ourselves into thinking that we deserve all the physical power we can possibly command.

If we modern humans are, in effect, addicted to power, perhaps we need something like a collective twelve-step program. The first step would be simply to admit that we have a power problem. Then we would systematically go about assessing where power imbalances exist, and reducing the physical and social power of the most powerful. Such reductions could be achieved through, for example, wealth taxes and energy rations for people in rich countries, and for the wealthiest people in poor countries.

But all of us aren't going to want to get on board with such a program. Once again, those with the most physical and social power will be in position to discourage such efforts, and will have plenty of incentive to preserve their advantages. How could humanity overcome powerful people's disinclination to cut back, before we're all overwhelmed by ecological destruction and societal collapse?

The only sensible strategy I've come across is the one advocated by my friend [Craig Collins](#), who suggests that what's needed is a power-sharing coalition (he calls it a Green Resistance Movement) with four broad segments:

- Groups and individuals working to save the planet by

halting climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Most of these groups and individuals work to confront the depredations of corporations and governments; some work to promote environment-friendly governmental policies or commercial practices, while others seek to stabilize and reduce human population.

- Social justice advocates. This category would include advocates for the poor, and for oppressed minorities of all kinds, including Indigenous peoples (who make up the majority of the population in some countries).
- Groups opposing violence, especially state violence. These would include anti-war groups, as well as organizations seeking to reduce the domestic proliferation of guns, international arms sales, and the militarization of police, as well as groups promoting peaceful methods of conflict resolution.
- Builders of the new culture. This final category is currently less internally organized than the previous three; it consists of individuals and organizations seeking to model and promote a sustainable, post-fossil-fuel way of living. Some members would be experts in the attitudes and habits of horizontal power. Others would be permaculturists, ecovillage pioneers, and renewable energy advocates. Still others would be creative artists of all kinds who are seeking to enlist the human imagination in building a green future.

Each of these by itself is at a power disadvantage when compared to the forces still pushing society toward power overload via capital accumulation and profit, resource extraction, waste dumping, and militarism. However, added together, these groups comprise a huge constituency.

Hence the vital importance of coalition and cooperation among them—rather than competition and conflict, with litmus tests of ideological purity as a requirement for

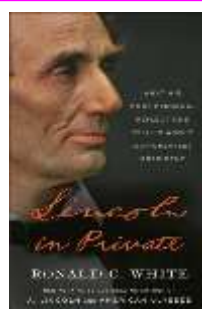
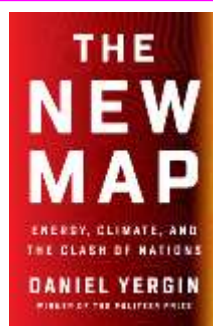


Is it likely that such a power-sharing coalition will succeed? That probably depends upon how well the leaders and constituents of the coalition understand the nuances of power I've briefly summarized above. Right off the bat, the coalition will have to accept a distressing irony: it will have to build an immense amount of social power to compete against entrenched power mongers. It will have to become powerful enough to change hearts and minds, win elections, put people in the streets, and succeed at negotiations. In many instances, it will have to gain control of institutions—and redesign them so that they can work in a post-fossil-fuel, post-growth era of reduced physical and social power.

If the coalition makes it that far, then it and all the powerful people in it will have to contend with sharing and giving up their super-addictive access to power. But if they succeed in doing so, all may participate in something far more satisfying than the process of amassing power: the development of wisdom that can last through the ages.

Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info



The New Map. The world is being shaken by the collision of energy, climate change, and the clashing power of nations in a time of global crisis. Out of this tumult is emerging a new map of energy and geopolitics. The "shale revolution" in oil and gas has transformed the American economy, ending the "era of shortage" but introducing a turbulent new era. Almost overnight, the United States has become the world's number one energy powerhouse. Yet concern about energy's role in climate change is challenging the global economy and way of life

World politics is being upended, as a new cold war develops between the United States and China, and the rivalry grows more dangerous with Russia, which is pivoting east toward Beijing. Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping are converging both on energy and on challenging American leadership, as China projects its power and influence in all directions. The map of the Middle East, which was laid down after World War I, is being challenged by jihadists, revolutionary Iran, ethnic and religious clashes, and restive populations.

Class. The bestselling, comprehensive, and carefully researched guide to the ins-and-outs of the American class system with a detailed look at the defining factors of each group, from customs to fashion to housing.

Based on careful research and told with grace and wit, Paul Fussell shows how everything people within American society do, say, and own reflects their social status. Detailing the lifestyles of each class, from the way they dress and where they live to their education and hobbies, *Class* is sure to entertain, enlighten, and occasionally enrage readers as they identify their own place in society and see how the other half lives.

Lincoln in Private. Now, renowned Lincoln historian Ronald C. White walks readers through twelve of Lincoln's most important private notes, showcasing our greatest president's brilliance and empathy, but also his very human anxieties and ambitions. We look over Lincoln's shoulder as he grapples with the problem of slavery, attempting to find convincing rebuttals to those who supported the evil institution ("As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy."); prepares for his historic debates with Stephen Douglas; expresses his private feelings after a defeated bid for a Senate seat ("With me, the race of ambition has been a failure—a flat failure"); voices his concerns about the new Republican Party's long-term prospects; develops an argument for national unity amidst a secession crisis that would ultimately rend the nation in two; and, for a president many have viewed as not religious, develops a sophisticated theological reflection in the midst of the Civil War ("it is quite possible that God's purpose is something different from the purpose of either party"). Additionally, in a historic first, all 111 Lincoln notes are transcribed in the appendix, a gift to scholars and Lincoln buffs alike.

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 Wallgasper
12. Sex, Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14. What liberal Media Eric Alderman
15. The End of Faith Sam Harris
16. Plan B Lester Brown
17. The Portable Atheist Christopher Hitchens
18. Open Society George Soros
19. Non Believer Nation David Niose
20. God on Trial Peter Irons
21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond-Robinson
22. The Missionary Position Christopher Hitchens
23. Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff
24. A brief History of Time Stephen Hawking
25. Breaking the Spell Daniel Dennett
26. The Philosophy of Humanism Corliss Lamont
27. The Quotable Atheist Jack Huberman
28. 50 Reasons People Believe In G.G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics Alan Taylor
30. Stealing Elections John Fund
31. The God Virus Darrel Ray
32. What Every American Should Know About World Rossi
33. Imagine There's no Heaven Editors of Free Inquiry
34. Hidden Order David Friedman
35. What the Dog Saw Malcom Gladwell
36. Sway Ori, Rom Brafman
37. The Better Angels of our Nature Steven Pinker
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian Christopher Hitchens
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded Thomas Friedman
40. Gaming the Vote William Poundstone
41. Subversion Fable Alexa KcKearing
43. Evolution and the Big Question David Stamos
44. Why People Believe Weird Things Michael Shermer
45. The World is Curved David Snick
46. The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
47. The Moral Landscape Sam Harris
48. How We Believe Michael Shermer
49. Full House Steven Jay Gould
50. The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain Harriet Smith, Editor
53. Science Friction Michael Shermer
54. Genius James Gleick
55. Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
56. Demon Haunted World Carl Sagan
57. Being Right Is Not Enough Paul Waldman
58. Loser Takes All Mark Crispin Miller
59. Taking Back Politics Cathy Allen
60. Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
63. 12 Vol Complete Works Robert Ingersoll
64. On Religious Liberty Roger Williams & Davis
65. The God Makers Baker & Hunt
66. Inevitable Illusions M. 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



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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](#).

Thanks, Jennifer Hancock

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 that will be truly rewarding.



Can Psychology Explain Religion?

Saturday, July 17, 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 3rd 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 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



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: 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

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



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>



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
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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – July, 2021 Calendar
 Because of CV-19, **all** gatherings in-person are cancelled pending further notice.
 See our Meetup site for more/ONLINE:
www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason



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