

### The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought

Vol. 10 No. 6 June 2021

Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

### What's Inside?

Suncoast Humanist Soc	2*
Post Carbon Council	<u>5*</u>
Atheists of Florida	<u>7*</u>
Norm Allen	8
CFI Tampa Bay	<u>9*</u>
Tampa Bay Skeptics	<u>11</u> *
Books/Cooper Library	<u>13</u>
Tampa Bay Thinkers	<u>14</u>
<b>Humanist Families</b>	<u>14</u> *
Military Atheists	<u>14</u> *
Ethical Humanism	<u>14</u>
Socrates Café	<u>14</u>
Hum. Sarasota Bay	<u>14</u>
UU Humanists	14*
<b>USF Humanities Institute</b>	<u>15</u>
Freethinkers@USF	<u>15</u>
Secular Coalition	<u>15</u>
TB Technology Ctr	<u>15</u>
Astronomy clubs	<u>15</u>
TB Coalition of Reason	<u>15</u>
Unified Calendar	16

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

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.

White Conservative Evangelicals hold increasingly Anti-Science views. That's a Threat to all of Us.

Over the past 15 months, efforts to combat the spread of coronavirus in the United States have run into a persistent roadblock: white conservative evangelicals.



Conservative evangelical churches were the first to resist public health orders that temporarily limited large mass gatherings, which they fought in court. Some of their churches became clearinghouses for misinformation and unfounded conspiracy theories about the virus. When vaccines became available, white conservative evangelicals were the largest group to vow never to take it. As schools and businesses consider requiring students and workers to be vaccinated, evangelical Christians are already insisting that they should receive religious exemptions and preparing for another round of legal challenges.

How did we get to the place where rejection of modern science and medicine has become an article of faith for so many white evangelicals?

An interesting story in Religion News
Service takes an in-depth look at this
question.

Rob Boston from AoF



For the millions of non-believers who have, or will suffer, the loss of someone they love, the grieving process is fraught by the added burdens imposed by (presumably) well meaning religious believers.

The aim of Grief Beyond Belief is to facilitate peer-to-peer grief support for those atheists, Humanists, and other Freethinkers for whom the god concept has long been cast aside, by providing spaces free of religion, spiritualism, mysticism, and evangelism in which to share sorrow and offer the comfort of rational compassion.

The Atheists of Florida will present, as part of it's regular Sunday Atheism on Zoom series, this opportunity to learn more of this important social function. Sunday June 6th, at 5 PM to 6:30.

Learn more and register (free) Here.

NB. Until further notice, following bestpractices 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.



## 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



At the American Humanist Association (AHA), we're looking forward to another important reason to celebrate. We are holding our <u>80th Annual Conference</u> on **July 24th-25th**, with a series of social and networking events in the week leading up to the Conference dates. Buy your ticket soon.

### What's the American Humanist Association Conference all about?

The American Humanist Association, the oldest and largest humanist organization in the United States, has held an annual conference since its founding in 1941 so that humanists, atheists, and freethinkers can gather together for a weekend of informative lectures, networking, and fun activities. The year 2021 will be the 80th annual conference of the American Humanist Association.

Since travel and gathering in large groups are still difficult for many, this year the conference will be entirely virtual. You can experience all of our exciting speakers and awardees from the comfort—and safety—of your own home.

### How do I register for the 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 leadup 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 19<sup>th</sup> and include social events, readings, gettogethers, and more! We'll also hold a virtual Congressional Lobby Day on Monday, July 25th.

Vol. XXXIV No. 6 June, 2021



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





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?**

How many philosophers does it take to change a light bulb? Depends on how you define 'change'.

How many existentialists does it take to change a light bulb? Two--one to bemoan the darkness until the other redefines something else as light.

How many Classic Idealists does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one--he prays, God turns his head to pay attention, the light bulb moves!

How many Analytic Philosophers does it take to change a light bulb?

None-its a pseudo-problem...light bulbs give off light (hence the name)...if the bulb was broken and wasn't giving off light, it wouldn't be a 'light bulb' now would it? (oh, where has rigor gone?!)

How many Reformed epistemologists does it take to change a light bulb?

1.37--and that needs no explanation because it is a properly basic belief.

How many monists does it take to change a light bulb? Don't be silly, there is only ONE monist...

How many deconstructionists does it take to change a light bulb?

On the contrary, the NILE is the longest river in Africa.

How many liberation theologians does it take to change a light bulb?

None--WE shot out the bulb in the name of Christian revolution!

How many Kantians does it take to change a light bulb? Two to change the phenomenal bulb; and one to explain that we might not have actually changed the bulb-an-sich at all.

How many evolutionists does it take to change a light bulb? Only one (to aim the x-ray machine) but the bulb changes very, very slowly

How many Creation Scientists does it take to change a light bulb?

Two: one to change it quickly, and one to point out that no transitional forms occurred at all.

How many Nietzschians does it take to change a light bulb? .00001

How many Heraclitians does it take to change a light bulb? None--its never the same light bulb again anyway

How many Process philosophers does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one really fast one--to stand in front of the bulb and block it from prehending the attribute of 'brokenness' in the next 1/32nd of a second!

Thx D. Chalmers

### 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, Kyle Hicks, 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:

### Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, Click:

Secular Therapy Org.
Cognitive Neurosciences
Or call:

#### Linda Falkner

www.allfloridaonline.com. 813-620-4900. Linda@cheercounseling.com

#### Lynda Gurvitz,

http://fampsy.org/member/ lynda-gurvitz/ (727) 725-8820

Or, Joel Schmidt www.floatoncounseling.com





Celebrating achievements of humanists around the globe. Humanism is a philosophical movement attributed to those who reject religious and supernatural ideologies. A humanist lives their life according to a set of values that prioritize scientific reasoning and empathy for other human beings, the charity <a href="https://example.com/humanists-uk"><u>Humanists-uk</u></a> explains on its website.

World Humanist Day takes place every year on the June solstice, which this year falls on Monday, June 21st. Ahead of the annual celebration, read on for everything you need to know about humanism.

Dictionary definitions vary, but the *Oxford Companion to Philosophy* defines humanism as "An appeal to reason in contrast to revelation or religious authority as a means of finding out about the natural world and destiny of man, and also giving a grounding for morality. Humanist ethics is also distinguished by placing the end of moral action in the welfare of humanity rather than in fulfilling the supposed will of a God.



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. <a href="Humanist Disaster Recovery">Humanist Disaster Recovery</a>, 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**



### Erich Fromm

"A person who has not been completely alienated, who has remained sensitive and able to feel, who has not lost the sense of dignity, who is not yet "for sale", who can still suffer over the suffering of others, who has not acquired fully the having mode of existence - briefly, a person who has remained a person and not become a thing - cannot help feeling lonely, powerless, isolated in present-day society.

He cannot help doubting himself and his own convictions, if not his sanity. He cannot help suffering, even though he can experience moments of joy and clarity that are absent in the life of his "normal" contemporaries. Not rarely will he suffer from neurosis that results from the situation of a sane man living in an insane society, rather than that of the more conventional neurosis of a sick man trying to adapt himself to a sick society. In the process of going further in his analysis, i.e. of growing to greater independence and productivity, his neurotic symptoms will cure themselves."

— The Art of Being

### 8 Ways to Advance Social Justice in your Community



- 1. Examine your beliefs and habits. ...
- 2. Educate yourself about social justice issues. ...
- 3. Discover your local organizations. ...
- 4. Take positive action in your own community. ...
- 5. Harness the power of social media. ...
- 6. Attend demonstrations and protests. ...
- 7. Volunteer....
- 8. Donate.



An autonomous project of the Humanist Society.

Affiliate of the Post Carbon Institute

### The Most Colossal Planning Failure in Human History

By Richard Heinberg of the Post Carbon Institute

The fossil fuel age had begun over a century prior to 1953, and it was known by then that coal, oil, and natural gas represent millions of years' worth of stored ancient sunlight. At the start, these fuels had appeared capable of supplying useful energy to society in seemingly endless quantities. Since everything we do depends on energy, having much more of it meant we could do far more farming, mining, fishing, manufacturing, and transporting than was previously possible. The result was an economic miracle. Between 1820 and today, human population has grown eight-fold, while per-capita energy usage has also grown eight-fold. We went from horse-drawn carts to jetliners in just a few generations.

But there were a couple of snags. One was that, though initially abundant, fossil fuels are nonrenewable and therefore subject to depletion. The second was that extracting and burning these fuels pollutes air and water, subtly but surely changing the chemistry of our planet's atmosphere and oceans. Neither issue seemed compelling to the majority of people who first benefitted from coal, oil, and gas.

So, back to Putnam's book. This thick tome wasn't a best seller, but it was considered authoritative, and it found a place on the desks of serious policy makers. Remarkably, it explored both of the core drawbacks of fossil fuels, though these were as yet on almost no one else's radar screen.



Putnam understood that the fossil fuel age would be relatively brief. With regard to coal, he wrote: "... costs of extraction continue to rise, while the average heat value in a ton of coal has begun to decline, at least in the United States." Similar symptoms of depletion would inevitably overtake the oil and gas industry, the author noted, even if the tar sands of Canada and shale oil (Putnam used these specific terms), as well as improvements in exploration and production technology, were all accounted for.

In a section at the very end of the book, titled, "The Combustion of Fossil Fuels, the Climate and Sea Level," Putnam wrote, "Perhaps such a derangement of the CO<sub>2</sub> cycle would lead to an increased CO<sub>2</sub> content of the atmosphere great enough to affect the climate and cause a further rise of sea level. We do not know this. We ought to know it." Now we know, and it turns out that a lot more than just a hike in sea level is in the offing. But we still haven't done much to change the worrisome trend of soaring greenhouse gas emissions.

While the writing and publication of *Energy in the Future* were paid for by the United States Atomic Energy Commission, Putnam was not a single-minded proponent of nuclear power as a substitute for fossil fuels. The subject did get substantial treatment in his book, but he spent as much ink on limits and downsides as he did on the potential of nuclear sources to meet energy needs. Putnam concluded that, "Based on present knowledge, it does not appear likely that the fission of uranium or thorium could ever support more than 10 to 20 per cent of the energy system of the United States patterned as at present. The figures for the world energy system would hardly be higher." Today, the US gets about 8 percent of its total energy from nuclear power, while the global figure is closer to 4 percent.

Putnam explored a range of alternative energy sources, including fuel wood, farm wastes, wind power, solar heat collectors, solar photovoltaics, tidal power, and heat pumps, but judged that these would not be sufficient to propel the continued economic growth of modern societies. Putnam, who died in 1984, was himself a pioneer in the development of wind power.

*Energy in the Future* was favorably reviewed in the prestigious journal *Science*, but it had negligible impact on public policy. And here we are, seven decades later, using fossil fuels globally at roughly three times the rate we were depleting and burning them in 1953. They still supply <u>85 percent of global energy</u>.

Here's the essence of our planning failure: we have built up civilization to a scale that can temporarily be supported by finite and polluting energy sources, and we have simply assumed that this scale of activity can continue to be supported by other energy sources that haven't yet been developed or substantially deployed. Further, we have incorporated limitless growth into the requirements for civilization's success and maintenance—despite the overwhelming likelihood that growth can occur for only a historically brief interval.

Failing to plan is often the equivalent of planning to fail. Planning is a function of language and reason—of which we humans are certainly capable. We plan all sorts of things, from weddings to the construction of giant hydroelectric dams. Yet we are also subject to cognitive dysfunctions—denial and delusion—which seem to plague our thinking when it comes to issues of population and consumption, and their implications for the future. In effect, we have collectively bet our fate on the vague hope that "somebody will come up with something."

Our failure continues—now with regard to the transition to renewable energy sources, primarily solar photovoltaics and wind power. Putnam himself, after surveying the limits to fossil fuels and nuclear power, seemed to settle on solar as humanity's long-term hope; yet he acknowledged that the realization of this hope depended on the development of technologies to make solar electricity available "in more useful forms and at lower costs than now appear possible." His wording suggests that he was grasping at straws.

There have indeed been significant technical improvements in wind and solar PV technology, along with huge cost reductions. Nevertheless, limits still exist. Sunlight and wind are themselves renewable, but the machines we build to capture ambient energy and convert it to electricity are made from non-renewable minerals and metals. Making these collectors requires energy for raw materials extraction, processing, manufacturing, transport, and installation. And renewable energy sources require considerably more land area than is needed for fossil fuel infrastructure. Further, solar and wind power sources are inherently intermittent, since the sun doesn't always shine nor the wind always blow; so, energy storage, source redundancy, and a major electrical grid upgrade are needed. There are work-arounds for each of these issues, but the difficulty of deploying the needed work-arounds increases dramatically as the scale of renewable energy production increases.

Without planning, this is what will most likely happen: we'll fail to produce enough renewable energy to power society at the level at which we want it to operate. So, we'll continue to get most of our energy from fossil fuels—until we can't, due to depletion. Then, as the economy crashes and the planet heats, the full impacts of our planning failure will finally hit home.

It may already be too late to avert that scenario. But let's assume there is indeed enough time, and that we suddenly get serious about planning. What should we do?

We should start with conservative estimates of how much energy solar and wind can provide. No one has a definitive figure, but for industrial nations like the US, it would be wise to assume some fraction of the energy currently provided by fossil fuels: half, for example, would be a highly ambitious goal (one of the first projects of the planning process would be to come up with a more precise estimate). Then, planners would explore ways to reduce energy usage to that level, with a minimum of disruption to people's lives. Planners would also seek to determine approximately the scale of population that can be supported long-term by these sources without degradation of the environment (yes, Putnam discussed the relationship between population and energy back in 1953), and then create and implement policies to begin matching population to those levels in a way that reduces, rather than worsening, existing social inequities.

A comprehensive plan would detail the amount of investment required, and over what period of time, and would specify the sources of the money.

Finally, as I have suggested <u>elsewhere</u>, good planning would entail the creation of a pilot project, in which a medium-sized industrial city is transitioned to get all its energy (for food, manufacturing, heating and cooling, and transportation) from renewables. Such a project would itself require subsidy and planning, but it would yield invaluable practical data.

It's gob-smacking to think that such a planning process actually could have started as early as 70 years ago, and that, at this late date, it has still barely begun. Instead, today's policy makers mostly just extrapolate PV price trends, hope for further technological improvements, and assume that huge systems for supplying society's needs using renewable energy rather than fossil fuels will somehow self-assemble in an optimum way and at full scale—all in just a couple of decades.

Without planning, it just won't happen. Addendum Some readers may be thinking: Wasn't agriculture, rather than the adoption of fossil fuels, the biggest planning failure in human history? After all, if we hadn't adopted grain crops, we wouldn't have developed full-time division of labor and all the specialized knowledge and skills that were required to mine coal and drill for oil and gas, and to apply these fuels to the solution of practical problems.



True enough. However, from a quantitative standpoint, it's clear that fossil fuels have enabled much higher population growth during the past two centuries than occurred during the previous 10,000 years. The same could be said for per capita consumption rates and environmental damage. Agriculture may have set us humans on an unsustainable path, but fossil fuels broadened that path to a superhighway.





# 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,

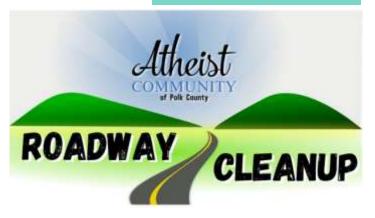
For linking information, see our notices on the Coalition of Reason Meetup page, or on <a href="www.aof.ngo">www.aof.ngo</a>.

Atheist Community of Polk County, led by Sarah Ray

We will be cleaning up our section of SR 17 through Haines City. We have a limited supply of vests, gloves, and pickers for you to use - and you're welcome to bring your own, of course!

Sunday, June 6, 2021 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Haines City ACPC Cleanup 1051 State Rd 544 E · Haines City, fl



### 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.

You Tube Channel

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



Astonishingly irrational ideas are spreading. Covid denial persists in the face of overwhelming evidence. Anti-vaxxers compromise public health. Conspiracy thinking hijacks minds and incites mob violence. What the heck is going on? What can we do about it?

#### We need to develop our Mental Immunity!

The next Skeptic's Toolbox webinar on June 17th will give you Five Ways to Inoculate Against Viral Nonsense! Our special guest, Andy Norman, Author of *Mental Immunity: Infections Ideas, Mind Parasites, and the Search for a Better Way to Think*, will provide practical tools from the science of mental immunity to help us defend ourselves against nonsense.

### **New Resources**

The Skeptic's Toolbox Resources Page is now live! We've gathered practical tools & resources to help you become a better skeptic and critical thinker! The initial resources focus on tools we all need right now: how to identify reliable sources of information, how to stop the spread of misinformation, and learning to identify logical fallacies and cognitive biases.



You can also watch videos of our previous Skeptic's Toolbox Webinars at skepticstoolbox.org

## Five Ways to Inoculate Against Viral Nonsense: Practical Lessons from the Science of Mental Immunity

FREE ZOOM Webinar. Presented by Andy Norman, Author, *Mental Immunity: Infections Ideas, Mind Parasites, and the Search for a Better Way to Think.* 

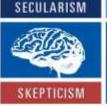
The emerging science of mental immunity points to many ways to improve our thinking. In this talk, cognitive immunologist Andy Norman will describe five powerful ways to develop mental immunity in your family and friends.

**Andy Norman** directs the Humanism Initiative at Carnegie Mellon University. He studies how ideologies short-circuit minds and corrupt moral understanding. Then he develops tools that help people reason together in more fruitful ways. In his book Mental Immunity, he lays out the conceptual foundations of cognitive immunology—the emerging science of mental immune health. You can learn more about Andy and his new book, Mental Immunity at his website.

Get the practical tools & resources you need to be a better skeptic and critical thinker! This is a "living" Toolbox and will be expanded as new resources are identified/developed. Resources include videos, training guides, and links to additional resources. If you have suggestions for resources we can add please let us know!









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

### **Everyone Else Is Biased**

By Jamie Hale, April 26, 2021

Cognitive biases are systematic cognitive errors that recur predictably under specific circumstances. There are different categories of cognitive errors, and humans of all education and knowledge levels are susceptible to them. Much of what enters your awareness or consciousness is derived from mental processes you are not aware of; that is, unconscious processes (Kahneman 2011). This leads to making decisions, judgments, or having thoughts without knowing how they got there. Improving the ability to identify and understand cognitive errors in belief formation, judgment, and decision making is important. With an increasing understanding, it is possible to identify these errors in others as well as in ourselves; ideally this may lead us to better thinking strategies.

The line of research introduced by Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky is often referred to when discussing cognitive biases and heuristics (cognitive shortcuts). Some of their earliest research examined whether people are good intuitive statisticians. Kahneman and Tversky asserted even though they had both thought about statistics and conducted statistical analyses for years, they still hadn't developed an intuitive sense about stats. They concluded their subjective judgments regarding statistics were biased,



May 2021 ↓

American Council on Science and Health-Ivermectin Gets A Randomized Clinical Trial.

The Results Are Not Promising
Science-Based Medicine-Long COVID
Ars Technica-To entice vaccine-hesitant,
Biden touts maskless activities for vaccinated
Religion News Service-Francis Collins urges
evangelicals: 'Love your neighbor,' get COVID
-19 vaccine so they became interested in investigating this bias in other researchers. Were other researchers who had taught and used statistics biased? Were they consistent in their intuitive sense? They found that other researchers exaggerated the probability that the original result of an experiment would be replicated based on a small sample (small samples often are not good indications that can be generalized to other settings; they rate low in external validity). They also found the researchers gave bad advice to fictitious graduate students about the size of the sample (that is, how many participants were needed for study); as they concluded "Even statisticians were not good statisticians" (Kahneman 2011). Subsequent research conducted by Kahneman and others show participants in studies are not very good at making statistical decisions.

Read the rest, including Cognitive Illusions Bias Blind Spot

Here: https://bityl.co/6bVn

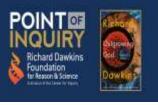
Subscribe to "The Humanist Magazine You Can Trust". Enjoy print or online access to the latest *Free Inquiry* articles on your computer, phone, or tablet! https://bit.ly/30vOCRP

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











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.

### What art history reveals about the rise of anti-feminist women

By Paula Keller, Edited by Sally Davies, Aeon-Psyche

A spectator's interpretation of the story need not contain any truth, no matter how half-baked, scant or unconscious

The English suffragette Millicent Fawcett was bemused by 'women who petitioned against women'. In her book *Women's Suffrage* (1912), she bemoaned 'the inherent absurdity of the whole position of anti-suffrage women'. How can anyone explicitly and consciously favour a patriarchal system that repeatedly and routinely harms them? As the US feminist Andrea Dworkin wondered more than 70 years later in *Right-Wing Women* (1983), how can women believe in the justice of a system 'in the face of proved atrocities and the obvious intractability of the oppression' that they suffer every day?

Fawcett and Dworkin were on to something: some of the most vocal resistance to votes for women in the early 20th century, against the expansion of women's rights in later decades, and against the continued struggle to combat gender oppression today, comes from women. How can this be? Perhaps some white, middle-class women - the predominant demographic of the anti-suffrage campaign - are driven by self-interest, looking to preserve their life of relative privilege. For the conservative US activist Phyllis Schlafly, who in the 1970s successfully mobilised masses of women against the US Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), anti-feminist work might have been a way to gain political recognition. Alternatively, perhaps some women are alienated by feminists and their popular image. 'Right-wing women fear lesbians,' Dworkin wrote, of the hostility she encountered at the National Women's Conference in Houston in 1977: 'to them, the lesbian was inherently monstrous, experienced almost as a demonic sexual force hovering closer and closer.' Or maybe some women have simply been fortunate or sheltered enough not to experience extreme gender oppression. Antisuffragettes, Fawcett wrote, "lived in a balloon", unconscious of what was happening among the dim common populations living on the Earth.'

Yet even women who are privileged or protected will likely experience or witness oppression when they, their daughters and their female friends are sexualised, put down, talked over, violated, abused, ridiculed or simply ignored. Shouldn't these experiences arm them with knowledge about oppression? Shouldn't it make them feminists, rather than anti-feminists?

Unlike Fawcett, I don't believe anti-feminist women are inherently absurd. They frequently don't experience the oppression they do face as oppression, but perhaps as a

compliment or oversight – and there's a perfectly good explanation for that. It's easy to fixate on the idea that, deep down, the oppressed must know that they're oppressed, but they must have some sort of gut refusal to accept it, despite some tacit, unconscious knowledge, some scant, half-baked understanding. Somewhere within anti-feminist women there are 'internal conflicts', says Dworkin; paying attention to those conflicts will unearth the oppressive 'realities of their own experiences'.

A detour into the world of art helps us see why this explanation is naive. Just like an artist can completely influence a spectator's experience of a painting, so social contexts can determine experiences of oppression *all the way down*.

Read the article here: <a href="https://bityl.co/6Z88">https://bityl.co/6Z88</a>

#### **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

"I leave pansies, the symbolic flower of freethought, in memory of the Great Agnostic, Robert Ingersoll, who stood for equality, education, progress, free ideas and free lives, against the superstition and bigotry of religious dogma. We need men like him today more than ever. His writing still inspires us and challenges the 'better angels' of our nature, when people open their hearts and minds to his simple, honest humanity. Thank goodness he was here." Bruce Springsteen



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!



## Can You Detect My Intolerance to Pseudoscience?

By Nicholas Little, March 24, 2021 https://bityl.co/6ad9

Or, "Just the Facts, MAM."

COVID-19 has slowed down much of the country, and the legal system is no exception. Currently, our cases against CVS and Walmart regarding those mega-retailers' irresponsible and deceptive marketing of pseudoscientific fake medicine in the form of homeopathy are waiting on a decision from the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. CFI has appealed the trial courts' rulings that we are the "wrong type" of organization to pursue these claims (ignoring our decades of work challenging pseudoscience) and that we failed to explain how the store's actions could be deceptive to consumers.

We're pretty confident the appeals court is going to recognize the lower courts' errors, but it has presented us with an indisputable legal dilemma. What should we do while we wait for the appeals court to make its decision—an already slow process elongated to one that is positively glacial by the impact of the pandemic?

There's a lot of other retailers out there, and a lot of other pseudoscientific bullshit they push out onto unsuspecting customers. Until we get a decision on the appeal, however, any lawsuit we file under the same legal theory, and under D.C.'s consumer protection statute, is going to be placed on hold. With a positive result, expect numerous suits to be filed rapidly. With an appellate loss, we have no intention of walking away. Instead, we will address the issues in our complaint and refile, continuing to challenge the consumer fraud that is going on.

But meanwhile?

Not every retailer is a giant like Walmart and CVS. Not every pseudoscientific product is as commonplace as homeopathy. But there's a whole universe of smaller matters out there that we can start to address.

Recently, in my Facebook feed, I was presented with an advertisement as seen here:

The company, Modern Allergy Management ("MAM"), asks for a sample of your hair (and, of course, your cash), and in return, they will test you for intolerance to 750

foodstuffs and environmental items. They can even use hair that isn't from your head—for bald customers—or diagnose your dog, cat, or horse!

Capybara owners are out of luck, but you never know what the future will bring.

Anyway, if you look in at the ad, you'll see they list, underneath a scary-looking chemistry lab beaker filled with purple fluid, "GMO."

Now, to me, much as CVS and Walmart placing Oscillococcinum under a sign reading "Cold and Flu" is an affirmative statement that the product treats colds and/or the flu, Modern Allergy Management is here claiming they can test your hair for intolerance to GMOs.

There's a problem there!

They can't. It's utter, utter nonsense.

There's no such thing as an intolerance to genetically modified products. You are either intolerant to a product or not intolerant to it. If you are intolerant to soy or corn or sesame, you are intolerant to GMO soy, GMO corn, or GMO sesame as well as to "natural" forms of it, whatever "natural" actually means. I'm backed up here not only by the scientific community but also by the Food and Drug Administration.

What Modern Allergy Management is doing here is scaremongering and seeking to capitalize on public mistrust for, and misunderstanding of, GMO products to sell its tests. I don't even know for sure whether MAM can show intolerances by testing hair. But I *sure as hell know* they can't test for GMO intolerance, ....

Read the rest & see the graphics here: https://bityl.co/6ad9

"Faith: Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks without knowledge, of things without parallel." - Ambrose **Bierce** 



### By Norm R. Allen Jr. Paul Kurtz Institute

With so much efforts by reactionary legislators to reduce voter participation .....

### Why do many adults refuse to Vote?

In the 2016 U.S. Presidential election, only 60% of adults voted. Most voters appear to be perplexed as to why so many adults do not go to the polls. However, as young people used to say in the 1990s, "if you don't know, you better ask somebody." It really is that simple. Yet, for many voters, the question is rhetorical.

First, it is not because non-voters are stupid or lazy. That is the easy and wrong answer. In reality, there are many reasons why a lot of people do not vote. The main reason, though, is that many see no substantive changes in the areas they care the most about.

For example, my ex-girlfriend voted for Obama. However, she flatly stated, "I was poor before Obama became President, and I will be poor after he leaves office." Sadly, she was (predictably) correct.

Poor people want good-paying jobs, decent public schools, safe neighborhoods, good housing, an end to police brutality, and so on. Yet, despite the promises of the politicians for whom they vote, these poor people only get more of the same. Who could seriously blame them for getting tired and frustrated, and losing confidence in their elected officials? No one likes the feeling of being used and discarded.

Democrats seem to believe they are automatically entitled to the votes of the poor, African Americans and other groups. However, Black leaders like Malcolm X have long pointed out how Democratic politicians have often betrayed Black people and taken them for granted. Malcolm used to say of politicians, "you can't find them until election time." (Indeed, near election time, one can easily find politicians campaigning at numerous events in the Black community.) Moreover, in his famous speech, "Ballots or Bullets," Malcolm told a predominantly Black audience about Democrats, "You put them first and they put you last. Because you're a chump — a political chump."

When Hillary Clinton ran against Obama in the 2008 election, she became desperate. She implied that African Americans are not real Americans, and said that real Americans, "white" people, would vote for her. Though she predictably still received the vast majority of the Black vote in the 2016 election, it certainly should not be shocking to learn of any Black person that will never trust

or respect her again, despite her Democratic street cred.

During the 2020 U.S. Presidential election, some progressives spoke of "lesser evilism," or the idea that voters are obligated to choose the least inferior candidate. Democrats have long maintained that sometimes they have to hold their noses when they vote. They must always choose the candidate representing their party. However, non-voters maintain that the lesser evil is an evil still. They understandably wonder why they have nothing but terrible candidates for whom to vote.

Some people do vote, but they vote for independent candidates. Progressives who do so drive Democrats crazy. Democrats insultingly tell them that they are wasting their votes. These are the same Democrats that say "people died for your right to vote." They seem to mean that people died for your right to vote for Democrats. In reality, though, people have the right to vote for the candidates of their choice – even for write-in candidates.

Quietism is another reason that some people do not vote. They believe that Jesus is returning "soon" and it does not matter. Jehovah's Witnesses believe this, even though they have been anxiously awaiting the Second Coming of Jesus for over 100 years.

One of the main reasons that many people do not vote in the U.S. Presidential elections is because of the archaic Electoral College. In 2016, Hillary Clinton won the general election but was still unable to make it to the White House. Is this supposed to foster confidence in the political system and make millions of people want to vote for the President?

Some scholars claim that White men formed the Electoral College to maintain and strengthen White supremacy. On March 18, 2020, speaking on National Public Radio (NPR), Jesse Wegman, author of Let the People Pick the President, agreed with many that the Electoral College should be abolished. Furthermore, he said that it has a disproportionately negative impact upon non-White citizens.

For these and many other reasons, perhaps a better question might be: why do so many people vote? On the other hand, voters should ask, are we in any way to blame for low voter turnout? If so, what can we do to correct the problem?

Norm R. Allen, Jr. is the editor of two ground-breaking books: African-American Humanism: An Anthology, and The Black Humanist Experience: An Alternative to Religion. He is currently writing a third book, Secular, Successful, and Black: 25 Profiles. For 21 years, Allen had been the first and only full-time African American secular humanist to travel the world promoting secular humanism. He has spoken on numerous radio and television shows including National Public Radio and to 72 humanist groups in 30 African nations. His writings have appeared in numerous books and encyclopedias, including Voices for Evolution, published by the National Center for Science Education.

### **Recommended Reading**

Click on the book's image for more info

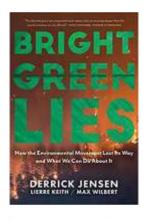


During much of 2014, FREE INQUIRY presented an unprecedented series of first-person deconversion stories written by atheists, agnostics, humanists, and other freethinkers from many walks of life. The series created excited discussion across the nonbelieving community.

Now the complete series is available in a single volume. It includes all of the essays that appeared during 2014, plus fourteen more pieces never before published — forty-two compelling firstperson essays in all.

Almost every major centrist/progressive institution in the United States, from 350.org to Greenpeace, from Democracy Now to the Democratic Party, seems committed to powering the industrial economy with 'renewable' energy. And we hear all the time that 'solar power will save the planet.' But a) will 'renewables' actually power the economy? and b) are 'renewables' good for the planet? - The answer in both cases is no.

In fact, the answer is worse than no, in that because of these bright green lies much of the environmental movement has been transformed from being about saving wild places and wild nature into being about powering the industrial economy.





Robert Green Ingersoll (1833-1899) has been called "the most remarkable American most people never heard of," a situation this book hopes to improve. At its core is a 13,000-word biographical appreciation of Ingersoll by Tom Flynn. Never before published at full length, the appreciation chronicles Ingersoll's life and accomplishments as well as the precursors of his principal ideas, and examines some reasons why "the Great Agnostic," a household name during America's Gilded Age, dropped so precipitously from the national consciousness.

Completing this collection are texts drawn from the Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum and the Freethought Trail, a celebration of radical reform sites within ninety miles of Ingersoll's birthplace in Dresden, New York. Special emphasis is given to historical mysteries that staff and volunteers connected with the Ingersoll Museum have solved (Who carved a heroic bust of Ingersoll when he was only 40 years old and not yet a national figure?) and those they have yet to solve (How did the agnostic Ingersoll obtain a Masonic Templar sword given only to persons who swear belief in Christ? Where was the forgotten lecture hall where both Ingersoll and blasphemous ex-preacher Charles B. Reynolds spoke?) This is a book for everyone who appreciates the wisdom, honesty, and soaring lyricism of Ingersoll.



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

### The Matt Cooper

**Humanist Lending Library** 

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

- 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 Wolir
- 8. The Upside Irrationality Dan Ariely
- 9. The End of Growth Richard Heinberg
- 10. The God Delusion Richard Dawkins
- 11. All That We Share Jay Wallgasper
- 12. Sex. Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
- 13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
- 14. What liberal Media Eric Alderman
- 15. The End of Faith Sam Harris
- 16. Plan B Lester Brown
- 17. The Portable Atheist Christopher Hitchens
- 18 Open Society George Soros
- 19 Non Believer Nation David Niose
- 20 God on Trial Peter Irons
- 21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond-Robinson
- 22. The Missionary Position Christopher Hitchens
- 23 Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff
- 24 A brief History of Time Stephen Hawking
- 25 Breaking the Spell Daniel Dennett
- 26 The Philosophy of Humanism Corliss Lamont
- 27 The Quotable Atheist Jack Huberman
- 28 50 Reasons People Believe In G.G. Harrison
- 29 Mathematics and Politics Alan Taylor
- 30 Stealing Elections John Fund
- 31 The God Virus Darrel Ray
- 32 What Every American Should Know About World Rossi
- 33 Imagine There's no Heaven Editors of Free Inquiry
- 34 Hidden Order David Friedman
- 35 What the Dog Saw Malcom Gladwell 36 Sway Ori, Rom Brafman
- 37 The Better Angels of our Nature Steven Pinker
- 38 Letter to a Young Contrarian Christopher Hitchens
- 39 Hot, Flat, and Crowded Thomas Friedman
- 40 Gaming the Vote William Poundstone 41 Subversion Fable Alexa KcKearing
- 43 Evolution and the Big Question David Stamos
- 44 Why People Believe Weird Things Michael Shermer
- 45 The World is Curved David Snick
- 46 The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
- 47 The Moral Landscape Sam Harris
- 48 How We Believe Michael Shermer
- 49 Full House Steven Jay Gould
- 50 The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
- 51 Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov
- 52 Autobiography of Mark Twain Harriet Smith, Editor
- 53 Science Friction Michael Shermer
- 54 Genius James Gleick
- 55 Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
- 56 Demon Haunted World Carl Sagan
- 57 Being Right Is Not Enough Paul Waldman
- 58 Loser Takes All Mark Crispin Miller
- 59 Taking Back Politics Cathy Allen
- 60 Spiritual Common Sense Mark Lindquist (Gift by author)
- 61 Autobiography of Mark Twain Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
- 62 The Skeptics Annotated Bible Various
- 63 12 Vol Complete Works Robert Ingersoll
- 64 On Religious Liberty Roger Williams & Davis
- 65 The God Makers Baker & Hunt
- 66 Inevitable Illusions M. Piattelli-Palmarini
- 67 Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
- 69 Bonk Mary Roach
- 70 What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
- 71 Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
- 72 Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
- 73 Best American Non required Reading Dave Eagers
- 74 Reporting at Wit's End St. Clair McKelway
- 75 Corporations are not People Clements

### **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

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 June 14 online at 7 PM



Topic: Race issues: Can police stop killing voung black men? What about reparations?

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.



Saturday, June 19, 2021 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM ET on Zoom. See our *Meetup* page for the current topic.

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 or text to 941-350-0927.



### **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: spacexaminer@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

Bill Norsworthy. Eileen Stafford. **AoF UUCH** 

Mark Brandt. **UUCH** 

MASH

Chris Brown. Jenn Hancock. **GTBHF** 

CFI

Rick O'Keefe, David Vangsness, Jim Peterson, TBS

HSS. TBPCC. CoR Facilitator



### Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason - June, 2021 Calendar

Because of CV-19, <u>all</u> gatherings in-person are cancelled pending further notice. See our Meetup site for more/ONLINE:

www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason



<b>CFI in BRANDON</b> – Sunday	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	_ 4
Freethought Social &		CF
Godless Friday Nights		
TRI-COUNTY -	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	September 1
Atheists of Florida, Inc.		
West Central Florida &	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	ampa
beyond -		Skept
Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc.		Ones and
DUNEDIN - <b>Humanist Soc.</b>	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists	
of the Suncoast, see Pg. 2	Zoom on the 2nd Saturday at 2 PM!	
E. CLEARWATER-	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists	1 11-2
UU Clearwater Humanists		Ŭ
E. TAMPA- <b>Museum</b>	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi	
Astronomical Resource	Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
Society (MARS) at MOSI		
E. TAMPA-	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-	T TOT
Humanities Institute at	Humanities Locations vary! Page 12.	IUSH
USF		
N. PINELLAS AREA –	Not meeting pending resumption of "normal life", Seating is limited to 25! For CFI	_ 4
CFI Freethought Supper	& TBS paid members only + one time guest. http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	Cf
New TAMPA -	Details & RSVP: No program until life resumes!	J. TANKA
Tampa Humanist Assoc.	http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	ASSOCIATI
ZOOM -	Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. RSVP is required. Must have read the book	
CFI Readers Book	under discussion to attend.	22
Discussion	http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	CII
ZOOM -	Lively monthly discussions. Know the topic or get laughed at. RSVP here: http://	4 2
Tampa Bay Thinkers	bit.ly/2DVtwCd	
ST. PETERSBURG-	For several dates monthly, locations, & details:	Contract of the second
Astronomy Club	http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home	
-	http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	The sugar
TAMPA BAY REGION-	Local & national Zooms until Covid is dealt with. Details & RSVP: http://	1
Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	bit.ly/2ljTe9l	Cf
TAMPA BAY REGION-	For families only! Family outings & other monthly activities.	Numerist Family
Humanist Families	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	<b>P</b>