



Vol. 5 No. 1 January 2016 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News

What's Inside?

Unified Calendar... 14

Humanist Society.....	2*
Tampa Humanists....	4*
Post Carbon Council..	5
Clr. UU-Humanists...	5*
UU-Tampa Humanists	5
Cooper Library.....	6
Florida Atheists	7*
Humanist Families....	8*
Tampa Bay Thinkers	8
Military Atheists.....	8*
TB Computer Soc.....	8
Inst. For Sci. & Hum...	8*
Center For Inquiry....	9*

* TB-CoR Org.

Directory

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Calendar
[Rick O'Keefe](#)

Web site
[Jim Peterson](#)

Newsletter
[Jim Peterson](#)

Special Projects
Mark Brandt, Judy Adkins,
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:
www.evolutetampa.com

See the full roster of the
Leadership board on
Page 5.

Darwin Day 2016 Saturday, February 6th 2016

Frans DeWaal & Deby Cassill



In 2007 Time magazine listed **Frans DeWaal** as one of the world's 100 most influential people. His insights into the origins of human behavior gained from his investigations into the origin and placement of humans in the biosphere mark him as a scientist uniquely able to help us fully appreciate the meaning of being human. (and yes, he's hugging a gorilla above!)

Deby Cassill earned her doctorate in the study of ant behavior, and finding in it some unique connections to the underlying social life of humans and other cooperative forms of life.

Get your tickets now through your Coalition of Reason local event page, www.evolve.tampa.com
Early bird rates in effect for the next month. Check for possible rebate for certain organization members.

Looking for a copy of *Brief Candle in the Dark* by Richard Dawkins? See information on page 13.

Take the bus to ...

Reason

the Rally that is,

in Washington D.C.
June 2nd to the 5th 2016.

TB-CoR and its member organizations are organizing a bus trip to bring Tampa Bay folks to the rally that is promised to be a major event on the national scene.

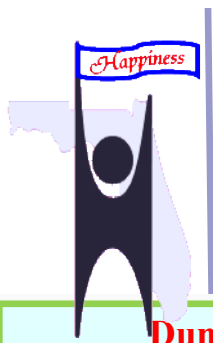
For more information as it develops, go to
www.evolutetampa.com

***"We are many! We are strong! We are united!
And we are here!"***

Precursors of Humanity

is our Darwin Day theme this year. In our time when we seem more separated from the natural world than ever, it is all too easy to forget that the basis of our own uniqueness as human beings lies deep within the evolutionary path taken by our ancestors. Our two scholars are exciting and interesting people who will be bringing us valuable insights into understanding the nature of who we are, how we got to be this way, and what this might mean for our future.

If you want to know where our potential lies and how we can begin to work on some of our most pressing problems in a world wracked by violence, exploitation, and inequality, where what we have done is a fact that must be faced, Then this will be valuable information indeed.



The Humanist Society² of the Suncoast News

An Epicurean society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is worth living well.
Associate organization of the [Humanists of Florida](#), the [AHA](#), [COR](#), and [CSH](#) Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL ([map](#))

Volume 24 No. 1 January, 2016

Our regular first Saturday meeting is moved up January 9th
to accommodate the New Year Holiday

A HUMANIST HEALTH PLAN

This session, we will look at four different aspects of health related matters, to see how essentially Humanist considerations can help to make a positive difference in how we live.

Blood & blood products Donations There are few more gratifying things for us to give than an essential part of our own body, to provide help for others. Learn more about how you can use an essential Humanist concept in a practical and immediate way.

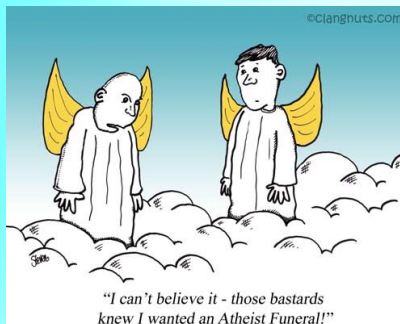
Hospice and End-of-Life For those of us who are given a closely defined period of time till our demise, hospice exists to provide comfort and relief from pain. It may also give us time to get the last strands of our live in order, and (if we are lucky) to attempt reconciliation, forgiveness, and understanding.

Organ & Whole Body Donations

The [Science Care whole body donor program](#) links those who wish to leave a lasting legacy through medical research with the researchers and educators that need human tissue to do their important work.

Rational Funerals and Celebratory Memorials .

The [Tampa Bay Funeral Consumers Assoc.](#) has been around for over 20 years providing it's thousand or so members with planned funeral and disposal services at a very reasonable price. With contractual arrangements with reliable providers, they can assure that costs will be in the range most can afford.



Tampa Bay Harvest

Food: the first kindness and the measure of our Hospitality
Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings.
Money is more effective than cans to get the most benefit to the greatest number of people. Thanks to **Glenn Paul**, chair.
Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance. **We need volunteers!** See a board member. Or write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com Thanx.

Please join us at

2:00 PM
January 9th
in

The Dunedin
Public Library at
223 Douglas Ave.
in Dunedin.

Many members go
to dinner after-
wards at:
Marguerites Cafe.

**December & January
are renewal months**
for the
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Annual Dues.

- _ Trial -3 month- free news
- _ **Regular -\$25**
- _ Reg. Couple -\$30.
- _ **Supporter -\$35/45 (W/ pin above)**
- _ Life -\$200.
- _ Life Couple -\$250.
- _ Associate -\$10



Your membership helps keep Humanism alive and 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 and enables us to support larger and more exciting programs.

If you have questions concerning your dues or status, contact our treasurer,
marios_psomas@hotmail.com

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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: * _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send tax deductible (501c3) check
made out to:
"Marios Psomas"

Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
1013 Connecticut Rd
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

* = optional



Got a letter, comment, suggestion or editorial contribution? Write to us at:
tbcor@metrodirect.net



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

The (not so) Movable Feast:
the Humanist Society monthly social Dinner
For January, is at ...

Kumba Island

1800 Gulf-To-Bay Blvd Clearwater
(N.E. Corner of G-T-B & Keene)

We're changing our approach. Now its just open. No RSVP required. Trundle on down for the fine food and fastidiously fabulous fellowship!

Be there on Sunday Jan. 17th by **5 O'clock** for Early bird specials. As always, this is a self treated dinner. Ask to be seated with "the humanists." We need a coordinator for this!... Maybe you?

~ Only the best people eat here when we do. ~

Laugh Lines Political Takes 1-16

More to come..

1. *If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates. *~Jay Leno
2. *The problem with political jokes is they get elected. *~Henry Cate, VII
3. *We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. *~Aesop
4. *If we got one tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union Speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven *~Will Rogers ~
5. *When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it. *~Clarence Darrow
6. *Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel. *~John Quinton
7. *Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. *~Oscar Ameringer
8. *I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them. *~Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952
9. *A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country. *~Tex Guinan
10. *I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians. *~Charles de Gaulle.

Thanks to Connie Purdum

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc.
The Association of Secular Humanist Societies

Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

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Steve Brown,
Lois Fries, Secretary
Dave Kovar, Vice President
Beth Maxie,
Jim Peterson, President
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Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie
Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard,
Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler
~*~*~*~*~

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:

Cognitive Neurosciences Inc.

or, The Therapist Project,

or, Lynda Gurvitz,
(727) 725-8820

or, Patricia Walters,
(813) 988-5977



Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM in
The North Tampa Public Library
8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)



Member, TB-CoR

January 16th, 11 AM

What can a Humanist Organization do for Tampa?

It's been a rough and tumble four years of existence for the Tampa Humanist Association. But we are still here, persisting against the tides of unreason and indifference that sometimes threaten disintegration and chaos. Bringing a civilized perspective with all the attendant historical, scientific, and aesthetic dimensions to a small library in the middle of this city and getting people excited about it hasn't been easy. But it is worth doing.

We need members who have a sense of urgent commitment to help our society break free from the capricious and largely mindless influences of ancient mythologies anchored in the vapors of untestable mysticism and having a disproportionate influence on our lives.

One thing we can do is to organize; to find ways to let people know that untrammelled freedom of thought and unrestricted exploration of the reality of our world is the key to self understanding and ultimately to the liberation of the human spirit.

First we should form a board. Please consider running for office.

JP

Learn more about the association at: <http://tampahumanist.com/>



Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!



Tampa CFI is offering these elegant license plate surrounds. Legal, sturdy, fits all US plates - easy to install. Now only \$12.

Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)



Tampa Bay CoR

9654 W. Linebaugh Ave. PMB #110
Tampa, FL 33626

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: Center for Inquiry-TampaBay, Tampa Humanist Association, Institute for Science and Human Values, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, UU Humanists Clearwater, Atheists of Florida, UU Humanists Tampa,* Freethinkers @ USF,* Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote serious secular discussion and activity about important issues in our area and beyond.

Thus substantive and exciting new activities are offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason and its director, Jason Heap. You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected in Tampa Bay and across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God. Millions are!"

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

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments. JP
Contact: tbcor@metrodirect.net: <http://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>

A Humanist Discussion group in east Tampa ! 4

UU Humanists of Tampa -

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

and on the 4th Sun. Morning 9:45 - 10:45.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637
More information can be found at :

<http://uutampa.org/unitarian-universalist-humanist-of-tampa/>



The mission of the [Secular Coalition for Florida](#) is to increase the visibility of and respect for non-theistic viewpoints in the State, and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

Please sign up [here](#). Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, and appreciated!



More [Seasonings](#) by CFI & Humanist Society member and journalist- poet, **Lula J. Dovi**. She has completed a second illustrated chapbook of poetry reflecting on her 92 years of adventures. It will be available soon, but the first [can be found here](#).

Humanist Quotes

"We do not rely solely upon science and reason, because these are necessary rather than sufficient factors, but we distrust anything that contradicts science or outrages reason.

We may differ on many things, but what we respect is free inquiry, open-mindedness, and the pursuit of ideas for their own sake."

Christopher Hitchens 1-16



An autonomous project of the Humanist Society. Affiliate of [PCI](#)

Changes in the Air from Paris

Despite great efforts by clever people over decades, no one has succeeded in finding any real problems with climate science or in generating any serious competing ideas. But what's more likely to change public opinion, many climate scientists point out, is the extreme weather prevalent today. Whether it is California's record-breaking drought or the fact that 2015, like the year before it, will set yet another first for the hottest year on record, people are now seeing the impacts that likely arise from climate change in their own backyards. It is no longer a threat relegated to the future and faraway places.

Not only is the public beginning to accept climate change as a real danger, they're realizing that fighting it is a viable option. Penn State climate scientist Michael Mann points to "the remarkable growth of renewable energy" as adding to the sense that public perception is at a tipping point. Cleaner energy sources are surging so much that 2014 marked the first time in 40 years that global carbon dioxide emissions stalled, and even dropped during a time of economic growth. With the tie between economic growth and lower carbon emissions severed, the public has begun to see renewable energy as a viable alternative. Indeed, a recent Pew Research Center survey showed a clear global consensus on a need to tackle climate change. Across all 40 nations polled, roughly 78 percent of residents supported the idea that their countries should limit greenhouse gas emissions.

The [Post Carbon Council](#) is looking for members.



Toni Van Pelt
~ ISHV



Bill Norsworthy
UUCH



Beth Maxi
HoTA



Mark Brandt,
UUCH



Chris Brown,
MAF



Jenn Hancock,
TBHF



Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS



Jim Peterson,
HSS, TBPCC



Al Hann
AoF ~

TBCoR Leadership Team 2015

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 and the public. For additional information send your emails to: spaceaminer@gmail.com



Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November and December when it is on the third Friday) at the Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL., at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public.

Clearwater UU Humanists

We are a group of Unitarian Universalists committed to a humanistic and non-theistic worldview. Currently, meetings are scheduled once a month and are usually held on the third Sunday of most months from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services.

The UU Humanists are open to all aspects of humanism, including investigation of religious humanism.

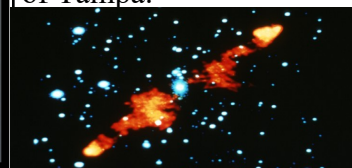
However, the focus of the group is on the secular aspects of humanism.



Clearwater, Florida

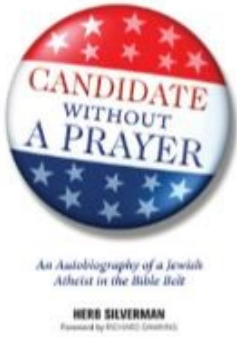


Our next meeting on **Sunday, January 17, 2016**. We are very fortunate to have on our schedule **Simon Schuler, PhD**, Assistant Professor in Physics at the University of Tampa.



He is an award winning teacher and astrophysics researcher who studies the chemical compositions of stars hosting planets discovered by NASA's incredibly successful Kepler space telescope, whose mission goal is to discover Earth-like planets around solar-like stars in the galaxy...that's our galaxy, the Milky Way. This should be a very interesting presentation!

Meaningful Books

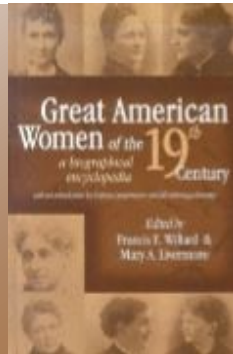


An Atheist for Governor of South Carolina? *Candidate Without a Prayer* offers an intimate portrait of a central player in today's increasingly heated culture wars. It will be sure to charm both believers and nonbelievers alike, and will lead all those who care about the separation of church and state to give thanks.

<http://bit.ly/1YEINOx>

"Containing 1,500 biographies and more than 1,400 photographs or portraits, this extraordinary encyclopedia, originally published in 1897, documents the lives and achievements of remarkable [white] American women who lived during the nineteenth century." A fascinating glimpse of women's status, opportunities, and struggles.

<http://bit.ly/20ahAk3>



*Let's Talk about Death:
Asking the Questions That Profoundly Change
the Way We Live and Die*

Letting ourselves pose certain vitally important questions and gain from the caring observations of others has the potential to profoundly change the way we think about death, how we choose to die, and, just as important, how we decide to live.

<http://bit.ly/1YEncEH>

2nd in the series: on kids making tough moral choices in a complex world. This new interactive book encourages parents and teachers to talk to children about their values and helps kids formulate their own personal value system in the face of peer pressure, even when following their own conscience means going it alone.

<http://bit.ly/20aia0Z>



Bank of Wisdom

Electronic publishing to make the world better

Make digital withdrawals from the bank, free! See Humanist Society Librarian, Marios Psomas for details.

Evolve Fish is a good source for your freethought goodies:

Pins, jewelry, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc

<http://evolvefish.com/>

The Matt Cooper

Memorial Humanist Lending Library

Humanist Society members (only) can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to Marios Psomas at: marios_psomas@hotmail.com Then pick it up at the next meeting **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

TITLE

1. The Expanding Circle
2. In Gods we Trust
3. Why Evolution is True
4. The Second World
5. Denialism
6. The Selfish Gene
7. Democracy Incorporated
8. The Upside Irrationality
9. The End of Growth
10. The God Delusion
11. All That We Share
12. Sex, Time, and Power
13. Sex at Dawn
14. What liberal Media
15. The End of Faith
16. Plan B
17. The Portable Atheist
18. Open Society
19. Non Believer Nation
20. God on Trial
21. Natural Experiments of History
22. The Missionary Position
23. Life Inc
24. A brief History of Time
25. Breaking the Spell
26. The Philosophy of Humanism
27. The Quotable Atheist
28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing In God. G. Harrison
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About World
33. Imagine There's no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
35. What the Dog Saw
36. Sway
37. The Better Angels of our Nature
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded
40. Gaming the Vote
41. Subversion Fable
43. Evolution and the Big Question
44. Why People Believe Weird Things
45. The World is Curved
46. The Snow Ball
47. The Moral Landscape
48. How We Believe
49. Full House
50. The Origins of Political Order
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain
53. Science Friction
54. Genius
55. Inevitable Illusions
56. Sex & God
57. Being Right Is Not Enough
58. Loser Takes All
59. Taking Back Politics
60. What Happened in Ohio?
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible
63. Database Systems (Complete Ver.)
64. Reluctant Database Administrators
65. Asimov's Guide to the Bible
66. Inevitable Illusions
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do
69. Bonk
70. What Money Can't Buy
71. Financial Shenanigans
72. Sex & God
73. Best American Non required Reading
74. Reporting at Wit's End
75. Corporations are not People
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president?
77. Culture of Honor
78. Rot on the Vine
79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker** **New!**

AUTHOR

- Peter Singer
Scott Atran
Jerry Coyne
Panag Khanna
Michael Specter
Richard Dawkins
Sheldon Wolin
Dan Ariely
Richard Heinberg
Richard Dawkins
Jay Wallgasper
Leonard Shlain
C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
Eric Alderman
Sam Harris
Lester Brown
Christopher Hitchens
George Soros
David Niose
Peter Irons
Diamond-Robinson
Christopher Hitchens
Douglas Rushkoff
Stephen Hawkins
Daniel Dennett
Corliss Lamont
Jack Huberman
Alan Taylor
John Fund
Darrel Ray
Rossi
Editors of Free Inquiry
David Friedman
Malcom Gladwell
Ori, Rom Brafman
Steven Pinker
Christopher Hitchens
Thomas Friedman
William Poundstone
Alexa Kckearing
David Stamos
Michael Shermer
David Snick
Warren Buffett
Sam Harris
Michael Shermer
Steven Jay Gould
Francis Fukuyama
Isaac Asimov
Harriet Smith, Editor
Michael Shermer
James Gleick
Piatrelli & Palmarini
Darryl Ray
Paul Waldman
Mark Crispin Miller
Cathy Allen
Fittrakis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman
Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith
Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis
Josef Finsel
Isaac Asimov
M. Piatrelli-Palmarini
Peter McWilliams
Mary Roach
Michael J. Sandel
Howard Shilit
Darrel Ray, ED.D
Dave Eagers
St. Clair McKelway
Clements
Cragun - Phillips
Nisbett - Cohen
Stenesh
Kaye

For even more access to Freethought history and perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prahl's Freethought Library. Contact fpahl@verizon.net

Florida Atheists



Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins

Join members of our Tampa chapter at our new headquarters / Studio Building

For January, see [AoF Meetup](#) for details.

AoF is a comfortable and safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, and 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 and powerful criticism of the philosophical worldview 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 and changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP
The latest news from Tampa AoF:

ASK AN ATHEIST

Too embarrassed to ask something you really, really want to know?

Have an idea you'd like to share, but don't want anyone to know from whom it came?

Have an opinion that's out of the norm for your group?

Well, here's your chance to share any or all of those in complete anonymity.

Just go to our [Ask An Atheist](#) page. We do not track any information about you, who you are, your IP address, or anything else. Of course, you will have to check back on the site to see any responses.

If you have an extra hour each month, and would like to help AOF, we are looking for volunteers to help create content for the website, atheist forum, and newsletter. Most of these activities can be done from the comfort of your own home. Feel free to let us know, just send your information to President@AOF.ORG.

Like to try your hand at TV-Podcast, or radio production?

Our new studios are looking for people interested in becoming involved in our production program.

Join the all volunteer corps of directors, camera operators, writers and producers, not to mention on air talent putting on our next year's schedule. See www.aof.ngo for sign up info.



St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson
Monthly Meetup Day: Third Tuesday at 7 PM
Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com
On the web: <http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

Ever wonder what other Florida Freethought groups are doing?



Now you can easily know. Atheists of Florida have a new Calendar: <http://atheistsoffloridainc.org/calendar/> which enables everyone to know what's going on around the entire state.

Florida NOW
<http://www.flnow.org/>



NOW is a multi-issue political organization. NOW's self-defined role has been to initiate change for the benefit of the greatest number of people, to affect the legal and institutional structures of the society in a way that systematically expands the choices and possibilities available to all women. In this way, NOW takes action to bring women, as a class, into the mainstream of society, rather than offering aid to individual women in achieving personal solutions or temporary relief from oppression.

FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



Earlier this year, the state legislature succeeded in passing a 24-hour waiting period for women seeking an abortion. On behalf of our clients Gainesville Woman Care and Medical Students for Choice, we immediately filed suit that has prevented the implementation of this harmful law. But another legislative session is about to begin, and the attacks on women's access to healthcare have already started.

Two bills, HB 233 and HB 1/SB 602, are now aimed at shutting down abortion providers by imposing medically unnecessary regulations on doctors and facilities that no other medical facility would be required to have.

[Stop these medically unnecessary bills: urge your state legislators to reject HB 233 and HB 1/SB 602.](#)

Not only are these bills unconstitutional, but these bills are bad for women's health. The decision about whether to carry a pregnancy to term is a private medical decision. By threatening to close clinics, these bills jeopardize a woman's health, safety and her ability to access comprehensive care.



Connect with the
ACLU of Florida

<https://aclufl.org>

**BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T
PROTECT ITSELF
JOIN THE ACLU**

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008. Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM. **January 18th: Topic:**

Are we coddling young minds?

See our Meetup site: www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/ for more information

The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



Nontheistic service members serve honorably throughout the world—always have; always will. However, nontheists are the last unprotected minority. The nontheistic, whether an atheist, humanist, agnostic, freethinker, or other secular minority, have a strong community.

Jason Torpy, a West Point graduate, serves as president of MAAF. He also holds seats on the boards of the Secular Coalition for America and the American Humanist Assoc.

On the web at: www.maaf.info

Contact: Chris (christbrown@yahoo.com) MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:

MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB, FL

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly Humanist Way of life. Jennifer is author of several books including: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine*.

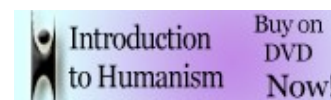


Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize and enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings and 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 and Carl Sagan Day in November.

Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/). See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.

Thank you! **Jennifer Hancock**



Freethinkers@USF is a multi-cultural, interdisciplinary student society which welcomes USF students who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, humanists, or religiously open-minded

who seek to promote reason, compassion, tolerance, and free inquiry on campus. We hope to contribute opportunity for interdisciplinary dialog to the USF community, and build scientific literacy for all to enable objective and rational interpretations of issues affecting our lives.

The organization is open to anyone of any religious persuasion or personal beliefs.

Write **Rodrick Colbert** at: freethinkersusf@gmail.com.



Tampa Bay Computer Society & Doc's Café

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. Visit our **new** facility on 300 S Duncan Ave Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755. [Map](#) Dave 'Doc' Dockery, President. Check out **Doc's Café** to discuss serious ideas and issues. Find us at: www.tampa-bay.org **We repair our member's computers Free!**



The Institute for Science and Human Values

See Page for article.

Various presentations throughout the year in the Tampa Bay area on significant matters of human concern. Watch this space for future announcements.

Toni Van Pelt President and Public Policy Director

Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc. Mailing address: 11280 Freedom Ct., Seminole, FL 33772 Email: tvanpelt@ishv.net Web: www.ishv.net



CENTER FOR INQUIRY

Tampa Bay

The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values.



Rick O'Keefe

Do You Want to Learn About Humanism?

The [CFI Institute Online](#) offers seminars entirely online -- everything about the course is provided on a CFI website. You will read the course lectures, follow links to other webpages, ask your questions, and participate in class discussion with the instructor and other students in our course chats and forums. There is no specific time that you must be online. There is no "live" aspect to these courses, and you cannot miss anything even if you can only get online at 6am, or 11pm -- you can log in and participate anytime day or night, 24/7.

CFI Institute Online uses course software by Moodle, an open source Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It has become very popular among educators worldwide as a tool for creating dynamic courses for their students. [Visit the Moodle website to learn more](#). Also, students should be familiar with [CFI's Policy on Hostile Conduct/Harassment](#), which applies to all CFI educational programming. Intimidating or harassing communications are not tolerated within CFI Institute Online courses.

Support CFI-Tampa Bay, Join now to keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, and become a member!

JOIN NOW

Click the **Join Now** button above to join or renew your membership. When you make a donation to CFI-Tampa Bay you become a member of a local and worldwide movement of humanists, skeptics, atheists, and free-thinkers, all working together to give voice to your values.

The Hilarious Prayers of a Confused Secular Child

December 2, 2015 by [Lauren Nelson](#) on Patheos

When you're an atheist parent whose extended family is religious, things get tricky. My parents are quite mortified that my daughter has not been (and will not be) baptized, that she has not been indoctrinated with the most familiar of Biblical tales, and that I keep our holiday celebrations secular regardless of whether or not they have religious roots. My daughter is 7 years old, and when she's ready, I'll teach her about a wide variety of faiths and their cultural and political histories. I'll explain why I don't hold any religious beliefs, and then leave it up to her to decide what she thinks is true. In the meantime, I have made myself clear on the fact that my parents are not to proselytize. There is one exception to this rule: prayer at their dinner table.

Her most recent pre-meal exultations have included:

- "Dear Jesus, go Bears. Give them touchdowns. ."
- "Dear Jesus, we thank your for iPads because they are fun and have Monster High and stuff. Amen."
- "Dear Jesus, we give thanks for Thanksgiving and turkeys and Hanukkah and Kwanzaa and Christmas and Santa. They are good."
- "Dear Jesus, thank you for giving [my teacher] a baby because I like babies."
- "Dear Jesus, Hip Hop Reindeer, Festival of Lights, Holly Jolly, and something else I can't remember."



Cause & Effect is the biweekly newsletter of the Center for Inquiry community, covering the wide range of work that you help make possible.

Applying investigation and reason to current issues, the most widely read publication, **Skeptical Inquirer**, keeps thinkers informed.

The Secular Humanist magazine, **Free Inquiry**, delves into all facets of humanity. Nothing is off limits.

Fortnightly CFI updates not enough? Of course they're not! • Follow CFI on [Twitter](#); • Like us on [Facebook](#); • Encircle us on [Google+](#); • Subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel.

For I have done your bidding. I have slain mine enemies in your name. I have put women and children to death in your honor. I have caused great pain among them for your glory. — Psalms, 5:4-1

From the national Council for Science Education

Darwin Day resolution in the U. S. Senate

December 18th, 2015

[Senate Resolution 337](#), introduced in the United States Senate on December 17, 2015, would, if passed, express the Senate's support of designating February 12, 2016, as "Darwin Day," and its recognition of Charles Darwin "as a worthy symbol on which to celebrate the achievements of reason, science, and the advancement of human knowledge"



Introduced by **Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut)**, S. Res. 337 is the second Darwin Day resolution ever to appear in the Senate. A string of similar bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives, the most recent of which — H. Res. 548 — was [introduced](#) by Representative Jim Himes (D-Connecticut) on December 3, 2015.

In a December 18, 2015, press release from the Secular Coalition of America, which worked with Blumenthal on the resolution, Kelly Damerow, the organization's interim executive director, [commented](#), "This resolution celebrates the intellectual bravery and scientific discovery that contribute to the well-being of all people."

Times Letter of the Month Winner - January

Estate tax rate is fair

The letter writer thinks estate or inheritance taxes punish small business owners, farmers and others. As an estate planning attorney, I disagree. The profit that accrues to those in the upper economic stratosphere needs to be taxed. The next generation has little to nothing to do with the "hard work" of their parents. If the effective tax rate is 20 percent or even more, it is eminently fair that the succeeding generation pay that tax, through loans if necessary, so that they have some burden for the wealth they are inheriting.

To say that the succeeding generation has no responsibility for their inherited wealth is just unfair and violates a basic concept of our economic system: that we are a meritocracy where all deserve at least a simulacrum of an equal chance in society.

This tax is fair also because our system has provided many benefits to that hardworking couple who built a small business or a profitable farm. It's also just because the next generation of the wealthy usually receives lots of advantages from their parents during the parents' lifetimes. The estate tax is one of the fairest taxes of all, and the argument that it amounts to double taxation is a red herring.

Mark Brandt, Dunedin Jan. 2015

The Tide of History Flows Left Continued from Page 13

In 1960, John F. Kennedy said in a famed speech: "If by a 'liberal' they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reaction, someone who cares about the welfare of the people - their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights and their civil liberties - ...then I'm proud to say that I'm a liberal."

Now that progressives have won the battle for same-sex marriage and locked the Affordable Care Act into law, the never-ending struggle undoubtedly will shift to new fronts. Maybe legalization of marijuana or registration of pistols will be the next big showdown. Whatever comes, I'm ready to predict the eventual winner. Amid all the chaos and confusion of daily life, through a thousand contradictory barrages, the struggle for a safer, fairer, more secure, more humane world never ceases.

Thank heaven for progressive victories that keep on prevailing.



Institute for Science and Human Values

Inspired by Empathy. Creativity and guided by Reason



Tampa Bay Time Bank

Connecting untapped resources with unmet needs

COMMUNITY SKILLS EXCHANGE

Tampa Bay Time Bank is a community skills exchange, also known as a "time bank." Time banking is a way to exchange services as a compliment to the cash economy. In Tampa Bay Time Bank we trade skills gained from work, education, life experience, hobbies, and volunteering, while making friends and building community.

Time banking is egalitarian. All activities are valued, and all activities are valued equally. One hour equals one hour. Each hour of work is equal to every other, regardless of the activity. We earn credit by doing something for another member, then we can use the credit by having any other member do something for us.

Please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Member Handbook) to learn more about how Tampa Bay Time Bank works.

Everyone can participate in the time bank

Everyone is welcome and anyone willing to maintain a high level of trust is invited to join the community. Everyone has something to offer and everyone has needs. By participating, each member contributes to creating a resilient and sustainable community. Tampa Bay Time has members throughout the Tampa Bay area.

For more information, for help with your application or using the online system, or if you want to get more involved with the time bank, please contact a coordinator@tampabaytime.org.

Tampa Bay Time Bank

Email: coordinator@tampabaytime.org

Thanx to Dave Kovar

Joe Nickell Stars in VICE Documentary “The Real X-Files?”

This week, the popular current affairs site *VICE* released a short documentary – “The Real X-Files?” – about the persistent belief in extraterrestrial encounters, and the subculture that this belief has sprouted. Wisely, they chose the Center for Inquiry’s own **Joe Nickell**, the world-renowned investigator of the paranormal, to be their primary source for the skeptical perspective.

Joe and CFI are front and center in this 18-minute video piece, as he joins *VICE* journalist **Casey Feldman** on a journey to Roswell, New Mexico, to take in the sights and personalities of a community obsessed with alleged alien encounters. Joe not only delivers some excellent lessons in the fundamentals of skepticism but also reveals his good humor and empathy, aspects of himself that belie the negative stereotype of the stick-in-the-mud skeptic.

Also featured in this documentary are *Skeptical Inquirer* editor **Kendrick Frazier**, the SETI Institute’s **Seth Shostak** (also a fellow of CFI’s Committee for Skeptical Inquiry), and veteran “Ufologist” **Stanton Friedman**, who, let’s just say, is not the fan of Joe that we are. We think Joe did an excellent job representing CFI and the wider skeptic community, and we think you’re really going to enjoy it. Make sure to carve out some time and check it out.



The Skeptics Corner

The Center for Inquiry (CFI) is a nonprofit educational, advocacy, and research organization headquartered in Amherst, New York, with executive offices in Washington, D.C. It is also home to both the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry and the Council for Secular Humanism.

For those of you Who watch cable TV There is some unique television available. The Tru-TV network has two new programs for this season that will stimulate the interest of the skeptically minded.

Host, **Adam Conover** **Ruins Everything** from politics to sex and even death as he takes down common place myths and misperceptions. He does so in a way that successfully mixes comedy and philosophy in the service of a rational and scientific worldview. Don't have cable? You can catch past episodes at the website: <http://www.trutv.com/shows/adam-ruins-everything>.

Test your credulity on the same network with a program called. **The Carbonaro Effect**, where host Michael Carbonaro will test your perceptions and give you an opportunity to figure out how some of his amazing illusions are done. Past episodes can be found here: <http://www.trutv.com/shows/the-carbonaro-effect/>

Of course, these programs also run on your local cable: Bright House Ch. 55; Knology Ch. 73; Verizon Ch. 183.



Hospices in Hillsborough County: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-hillsborough-county-florida>
Pinellas: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pinellas-county-florida>
Pasco: <https://www.caring.com/local/hospices-in-pasco-county-florida>



The Humanities Institute at USF

<http://humanities-institute.usf.edu>

Wednesday, Jan. 27

CWY 206

6:00pm, reception to follow



Frenemies: The Curious Relationship between the Sciences and the Humanities,

with **Rebecca Newberger Goldstein**

In an era that values STEM over other fields of inquiry, we're delighted to welcome a renowned scholar who shows the importance of connecting sciences and humanities in "Frenemies: The Curious Relationship between the Sciences and the Humanities."



Novelist and philosopher of science Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, a MacArthur "genius" recipient, was awarded the 2014 National Humanities Medal, in recognition of her success in "bringing philosophy into conversation with culture."



Reason Talks

Captivating talks on science, humanism, skepticism, and other smart stuff.



Introducing REASON TALKS: Freethought Presentations Online and On-Demand

Captivating talks on science, humanism, skepticism, and other smart stuff

The Center for Inquiry is proud to introduce [Reason Talks](#), your source for high-quality video of the best presentations from the brightest minds and most compelling speakers in all of freethought.



You already know that along with passionate advocacy of science, skepticism, and humanist values, CFI stages enlightening and impactful public events, featuring award-winning speakers from across the disciplines. From major international conferences to weekend lectures with local experts, CFI strives to provide one "eureka" moment after another to spark debate, inspire action, and entertain.

Now with Reason Talks, anyone can enjoy the best presentations and discussions from CFI events, presented in "seasons" of episodes, with a new talk posted every week at [ReasonTalks.tv](#). Watch them individually in your spare time, or take a day and "binge-watch" a whole season's worth for your own personal conference. It's up to you!

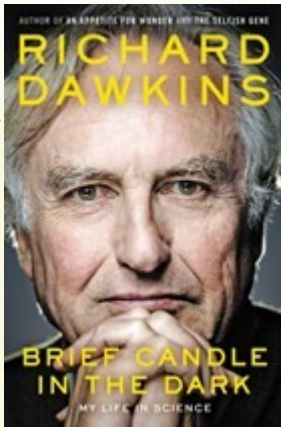
We're kicking off Reason Talks with not one but three excellent presentations: [Rebecca Goldstein](#), author of *Plato at the Googleplex*, who just received the [2014 National Humanities Medal from President Obama](#); *New Yorker* science journalist [Michael Specter](#), on the baseless fear of GMOs; and international human rights activist [Taslima Nasrin](#) on why secularism is necessary for women's freedom.

In upcoming episodes, we'll have talks from luminaries such as [Eugenie Scott](#), [Lindy West](#), [Steven Salzberg](#), [Susan Jacoby](#), and CFI president and CEO, [Ronald A. Lindsay](#). And that's just season one! Reason Talks will feature speakers that challenge conventional wisdom, bringing science and evidence-based thinking to bear on some of the most controversial, perplexing, and critical issues of our time. These experts hail from a wide variety of fields such as science, journalism, politics, religion, philosophy, and grassroots activism.

Going beyond cheerleading for atheism and skepticism, Reason Talks delve deeply into such crucial issues as religious freedom, social justice, science education, public policy and activism, investigations of the paranormal, the dangers of magical thinking and alternative medicine, and the global struggle for free expression and inquiry. And so much more.

Of course, it's all free, on-demand, online. Check out Reason Talks now at [ReasonTalks.tv](#).

Going Fast!
Not many left!



Looking for a copy of Richard Dawkins' book?

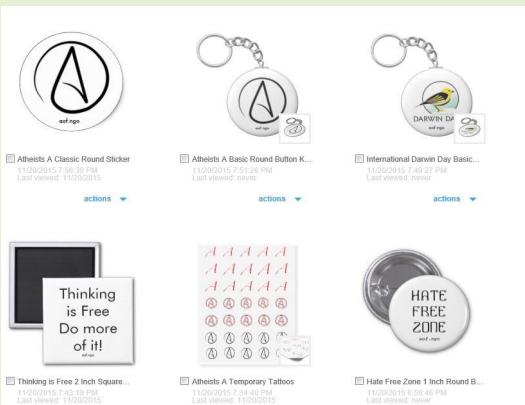
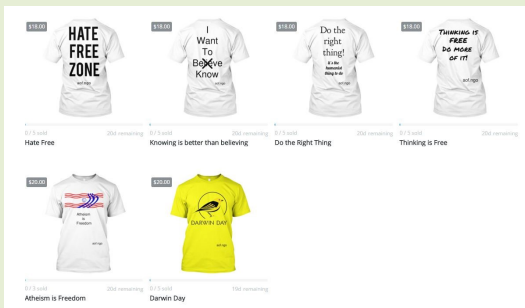
Exclusive autographed copy, including our program brochure, and a DVD of the event, and bookmark for only \$16.95 plus S&H. Go to: www.evolvetampa.com

Shop until THEY drop Secular Shopping Made Easy Visit the AOF store

and get your shopping done quickly and easily, and support the Atheist/Freethought movement, all at the same time. We have what you need! If we don't have it, you don't need it..

We have t-shirts, mugs, stickers, even temporary tattoos if you are feeling adventuresome.

Click on any image below to go to the store now, or, visit us at: <https://teespring.com/stores/aof> or, <http://www.zazzle.com/floridaatheists>



THE TIDE OF HISTORY FLOWS LEFT

By James A. Haught



One of my history-minded friends has a long-range political view summed up in three words: Liberals always win. Complex social struggles may take centuries or decades, he says, but they eventually bring victory for human rights, more democratic liberties, a stronger public safety net, and other progressive goals. Look how long it took to end slavery. Generations of agitation and the horrible Civil War finally brought triumph for liberal abolitionists and defeat for conservative slavery supporters. Look how long it took for women to gain the right to vote. In the end, liberal suffragettes prevailed, conservative opponents lost. Look at the long battle to give couples the right to practice birth control.

Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger was jailed eight times for the crime of mentioning sex - but she eventually transformed U.S. society. A Supreme Court victory in 1965 struck down contraceptive bans for married couples, and a follow-up victory in 1972 struck them down for unwed ones. Liberals won, conservatives lost. In the 1920s, conservatives imposed Prohibition of alcohol on America, but they eventually lost, and booze flowed freely again.

Similarly, conservatives tried to block Social Security pensions for retirees - and unemployment compensation for the jobless - and equality for blacks - and Medicare and Medicaid - and equality for women - and food stamps for needy families - and expanded health insurance under the Affordable Care Act - and equality for gays - etc. But all these stormy social conflicts ended the same way: Liberals always win. Conservatives always lose. The nonviolent civil rights movement that ended Jim Crow segregation and made Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. an American icon was a classic liberal victory.

Of course, history doesn't move in a clear, predictable manner. Germany was advanced and modern - yet it sank into the horrors of Nazism. Other setbacks occur. But the overall tide of civilization flows in a progressive direction. In his landmark book, "The Better Angels of Our Nature," Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker concludes that all sorts of human evils - war, genocide, murder, rape, torture, dueling, wife-bashing, attacks on minorities, etc. - have faded enormously from the Western world. International warfare has virtually vanished. Pursuit of such humane goals lies at the heart of the liberal agenda.

When I first became a news reporter in the 1950s, conservative Bible Belt morality was enforced by laws. It was a crime for stores to open on the Sabbath. It was a crime to look at the equivalent of a Playboy magazine, or to read a sexy book. (Our mayor once sent cops to raid bookstores selling "Peyton Place.") Back then, it was a felony to be gay, and those who were caught were sent to prison under old sodomy laws. Back then, it was a felony for a desperate girl to end a pregnancy. It was illegal for an unmarried couple to share a bedroom. Divorce or unwed pregnancy was an unmentionable disgrace. Jews weren't allowed into Christian-only country clubs. Public schools had mandatory teacher led prayer. It was a crime to buy a cocktail or a lottery ticket. That world disappeared, decade after decade. The culture slowly evolved. Sunday "blue laws" were undone. Teacher-led prayers were banned. Gay sex became legal. Liquor clubs were approved. Abortion became legal. State governments became lottery operators. Censorship ended. Other conservative taboos gradually disappeared. Within my lifetime, morality flip-flopped. Conservative thou-shalt-nots lost their grip on society. Liberals won - yet it happened so gradually that hardly anyone noticed.

For several decades, the strongest indicator of politics was church membership. White evangelicals voted overwhelmingly for Mitt Romney. People who don't attend worship voted overwhelmingly for Barack Obama. The latter became the largest group in the Democratic Party base. They're generally more tolerant.

Today, survey after survey finds American church membership fading, while the young generation ignores religion. Sociologists think the secular trend is unstoppable. People who say their faith is "none" already comprise one-fourth of the adult population - 56 million Americans - and they seem destined someday to be the largest segment. The social tide is flowing away from conservative fundamentalism and its Puritanical agenda. All these factors support my friend's maxim that liberals always win. The progressive worldview is called humanism - trying to make life better for all people - and it's a powerful current.

Continued on Page 10



Tampa Bay Coalition – January, 2016 Calendar of Reason

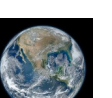
This is produced from preliminary information. Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when and where We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.

Organizers of these events will be most grateful to all who have the courtesy to RSVP for those events that require it.

Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>



01-20 & 27 Lectures	E. TAMPA– Humanities Inst. at USF	See Web site for full listing of many great events and calendar. http://humanities-institute.usf.edu/events/
01-08, Friday, 7 PM MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/ Other events: http://www.marsastro.org/club-info.html
01-09, Saturday, 2 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. - Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
01-10 1:30 AM, & 01-23 11:00 AM NOTE: this is the legal assoc.	CLEARWATER– Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay/
01-12, Saturday, 10:30 AM; <i>Must have read the book to attend</i>	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)	Book lovers discuss books we've read. Limited to 12 <i>paid-up CFI members</i> . RSVP is required . http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
01-16, Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association/
01-17 Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Social, & Tampa Bay Skeptics	Skeptical interests & critical thinking. Click to RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay
01-17, Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Humanists	Details: http://www.uuc.org/
01-17, Sunday, 5 PM	PINELLAS COUNTY Humanist Society Dinner	This month's venue: http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/
01-18, Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/
01-19, Saturday, 11 AM	BRADENTON/SARASOTA – Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP : http://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Families-of-Greater-Tampa-Bay/
01-22, Friday, 8 PM general meeting	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/calendar.php
01-30, Saturday, 11 AM	NW HILLSBOROUGH – Center for Inquiry	Details & RSVP http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
01-TBA, Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required Seating is limited to 25! Click here <i>before</i> midnight, Sunday the 29 th . For CFI & TBS <i>paid members</i> . http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/
See the Web site	TEMPLE TERRACE– UU Tampa Humanists	Details: http://uutampa.org/shaag-discussion-topics/



I know a lot about cars. I can look at a car's headlights and tell you exactly which way it's coming.

Mitch Hedberg 2001