

Vol. 6 No. 4, April 2017 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

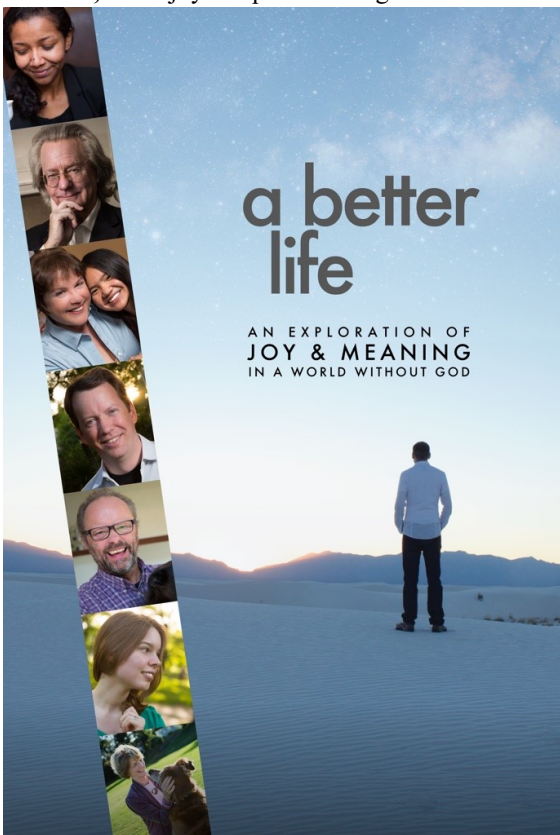


# Freethought News

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Relax,... Enjoy a quiet evening with friends



There is no God. Now what? If this is the only life we have, how does that affect how we live our lives, how we treat each other, and cope with death. Photographer and filmmaker Chris Johnson introduces us to some of the many voices from his book. In this fascinating documentary — learn the stories behind the book in interviews with some of our greatest thinkers. Join Chris as he explores issues of joy & meaning and travels around the globe meeting people from all walks of life and backgrounds who challenge the false stereotypes of atheists as immoral and evil. From Daniel Dennett and A.C. Grayling, to Julia Sweeney and Robert Llewellyn — learn the various ways many atheists have left religion to *a better life* filled with love, compassion, hope, and wonder!

See the film. Meet the director, Chris Johnson  
**Friday 7 to 9:30 April 21, at the UU Octagon Presented by UU Humanists & TB-CoR . \$5.00 All welcome!**

**WE RESIST  
WE BUILD  
WE RISE**

APRIL 29TH, 2017, WASHINGTON DC

PEOPLESCLIMATE.ORG

Get more involved!

One of the biggest marches yet in protest of malicious government policies. April 29th in DC. For more info, see:

[www.peoplesclimate.org](http://www.peoplesclimate.org)



*Your Best Published Letters*

## Westward ho or westward no? | Fill the gap in education

It's not often that I agree with Bret Stephens, but he has my wholehearted support when he says we need to bring back Western civilization studies to our campuses. My college graduation in 1961 from Queens College in New York, with a major in physics and a minor in math, demanded that I take two years of a course in Western civilization. That course combined history, philosophy, economics and most of the other studies that influence our American way of thinking. I looked — from my high perch as a physics major, and woman to boot — disdainfully at this program where my credit hours were "wasted" on something other than science or math. But surprise, those two years gave me and my friends from Queens College a strong foundation on how our government works (or how it should work) and a firm belief that our institutions, which have developed not over 250 years, but since the beginning of Western culture, will withstand any idiocy, no matter how powerful — even a president who may not have had the advantage of a school that taught us whence we came.

**Lois Fries, Largo**



From TB Times 2-22-17

Feel inspired? Now is the time to share your thinking with a world that really needs to hear it. **Write today!**

## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

### Calendar

[Rick O'Keefe](#)

### Web site

Jim Peterson

### Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

### Special Projects

Mark Brandt  
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:  
[www.evolvetampa.com](http://www.evolvetampa.com)

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

This publication online at:  
[www.suncoasthumanist.com](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)

# The Humanist Society 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](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)

**Dunedin Public Library** 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL 2 PM



## Florida's Legislative Shenanigans

As we go to press the Tallahassee body is again at its annual conspiracy to agitate and terrorize the citizenry with its latest list of reduced services and increased taxes. (Make over \$200 K?

Don't worry, you won't be inconvenienced.)

B. J. Starr is President of West Pinellas NOW and an attorney who is very knowledgeable on such matters. We anticipate an animated discussion about the current fray as well as the upcoming constitutional Revision Commission, with its attendant possibilities for even more retrograde mischief making.

B. J. Starr



## Our Elections

We will devote a portion of the meeting to our annual election of members willing to serve on our board of directors (Despite everything they've heard.) Terms are for one year - about 3 meetings. Only paid members of 6 months or more may vote. Your service is much appreciated, especially in this, our 30th year.



**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 and Jordan Williams. Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance. **We need volunteers!** Write to [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com) Thanx.

Be with us at

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

Sat. April 1st at 2 PM

Many of us go to dinner afterwards at:  
[Marguerites Cafe](#)  
directly across from the Library.

Volume 30 No. 4 April, 2017

*Celebrating*  
**30 Years**  
*of*  
**Humanism**  
In west central Florida

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

## Annual Dues

E-mail news -Free

**Regular - \$25**

Reg. Couple - \$30.

**Supporter - \$35/40** (With 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](mailto: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"**

Memo line: "Humanist Society Dues"

Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA

1013 Connecticut Rd

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

\*= optional





*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 Movable Feast

the Humanist Society's monthly social Dinner  
is out to lunch!  
It needs a new director - perhaps, you?

## Laugh Lines 04-17

### Top Ten (10) Things We know about you.

- 1) You are reading this.
- 2) You are human.
- 3) You can't say the letter "P" without separating your lips.
- 4) You just attempted to do it.
- 6) You are laughing at yourself.
- 7) You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5.
- 8) You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.
- 9) You laugh at this because you are a fun loving person and everyone does it too.
- 10) You are probably going to show this to some one, to see who else falls for it.

CAN YOU CRY UNDER WATER?

HOW IMPORTANT DOES A PERSON HAVE TO BE BEFORE THEY ARE CONSIDERED ASSASSINATED INSTEAD OF JUST MURDERED?

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO "PUT YOUR TWO CENTS IN" .. BUT IT'S ONLY A "PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS"? WHERE'S THAT EXTRA PENNY GOING TO?

ONCE YOU'RE IN HEAVEN, DO YOU GET STUCK WEARING THE CLOTHES YOU WERE BURIED IN FOR ETERNITY?

WHY DOES A ROUND PIZZA COME IN A SQUARE BOX?

WHAT DISEASE DID CURED HAM ACTUALLY HAVE?

## Humanist society

of the Suncoast

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

### Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

**Jay Alexander,**  
**Steve Brown,**  
**Lois Fries,** Secretary  
**Dave Kovar,** Vice President  
**Jim Peterson,** President  
**Frank Prahl,**  
**Marios Psomas,** 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, Don 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](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

### Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,  
click:  
[Secular Therapy Org.](http://SecularTherapyOrg.com)

[Cognitive Neurosciences Inc.](http://CognitiveNeurosciencesInc.com)

### Or call:

Lynda Gurvitz,  
(727) 725-8820

Patricia Walters,  
(813) 452-6547



## Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

**North Tampa Public Library**

8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM

### IS HUMANITY DOOMED?

Conversation Leader: *Lucas Hopegood*

As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above and within the level of conscious recognition. Using the instruments of reason, and critical thinking, we strive to be at one in understanding both the world that made us, and the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully and critically dissects a new intersection of mind and matter. Be part of it.

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



Member, TBCoR,  
Hum Society, & AHA  
affiliate.



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

**Bill Norsworthy, is our Florida representative.**



Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, and appreciated!

Please sign up [here](#).

As our government undergoes its quadrennial crises of morphology, the secular coalition is needed to remind citizens and officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots and trolls requires your involvement.

### A Humanist Discussion group in east Tampa !

### 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://uutampanet.org/unitarian-universalist-humanist-of-tampa/>

### Humanist Quotes

"The Humanist view of life is progressive and optimistic, in awe of human potential, living without fear of judgement and death, finding enough purpose and meaning in life, love and leaving a good legacy."

Polly Toynebee, Pres. BHA

### Show off your commitment to Science and Reason!



CFI-Tampa Bay is offering these elegant license plate surrounds. Legal, sturdy, fits all US plates - easy to install. Only \$10.

Order from [Rick O'Keefe](#)



**Tampa Bay CoR**

E-mail:

[tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

### Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: Center for Inquiry-Tampa Bay, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Tampa Humanist Association, Institute for Science and Human Values, Freethinkers@USF,\* UU Humanists Clearwater, Atheists of Florida, UU Humanists Tampa,\* 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 secular / freethought / Humanist /Atheist movement.*

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments . JP

Contact: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net) <http://tampabaycor.net/>



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

## ***Satisfaction in Small Things..***

Crisis can often bring out the worst qualities in people. Tumult creates opportunities for . . . well, *opportunists*—bullies and hucksters. We have an example readily at hand: someone of Donald Trump's character probably could not have arisen in American politics during a period of generally growing affluence such as prevailed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (yes, we endured some dullards and crooks—but no one even approaching Trump's level of pugnacious mendacity). But while bullies and hucksters can gain power and sow discord, they can't be looked to as agents for improvement of our long-term survival prospects. For that, entirely different qualities of character are required. As global industrial civilization fragments, persistence of the best of what we humans are and have achieved will require us to build resilient, enduring communities—ones with high internal levels of mutual trust, and that are capable of adapting quickly to changing conditions and responding effectively to a range of threats. Such communities arise and sustain themselves only by nurturing and prizing certain qualities of character on the part of their members.

The people who are most likely to be of use in such communities are those who exhibit old-fashioned virtues, including honesty, bravery, self-control, cheerfulness, humility, and generosity. The ability to amuse and entertain oneself and others will be a welcome bonus; likewise the ability to speak convincingly, and the willingness both to endure discomfort and to find satisfaction in small things.

***Richard Heinberg***

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License at Common Dreams.org See the Humanist Society's environmental website at: [www.tampabaypostcarbon.com](http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com)

## **USF Freethinkers**

Join Freethinkers@USF for genuine, conversational discourse and a communal atmosphere.

Freethinkers@USF is a cosmopolitan collective of USF students promoting critical thinking and pluralism through dialogue and reasonable inquiry. Join the official group and vote on upcoming discussions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/>

For more information contact: [fadibitar@mail.usf](mailto:fadibitar@mail.usf)

## **M.A.R.S. – Tampa Astronomy Club**

Welcome to the [Museum Astronomical Resource Society](#), also known as the M.A.R.S. astronomy club. M.A.R.S. is sponsored by the [Museum of Science and Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League](#) and [Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news and astronomical information to our membership and to the public.

There's only one thing the people of M.A.R.S. enjoy more than observing the heavens... that's sharing it with others! Whether you are new to astronomy and 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, and take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Details & RSVP:

<https://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/>

## **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](mailto: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. [Calendar](#)



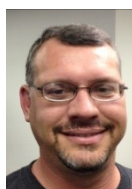
**Toni Van Pelt,**  
ISHV



**Bill Norsworthy,**  
UUCH



**Mark Brandt,**  
UUCH



**Chris Brown,**  
MAF



**Jenn Hancock,**  
GTBHF



**Rick O'Keefe,**  
CFI, TBS



**Jim Peterson,**  
HSS, TBPCC



**Al Hann**  
AoF

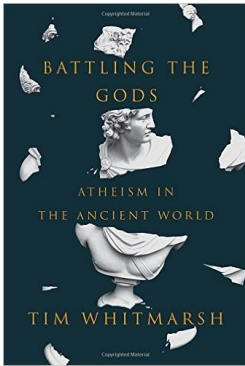
## **TBCoR Leadership Team 2017**

Editorial E-Mail: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)



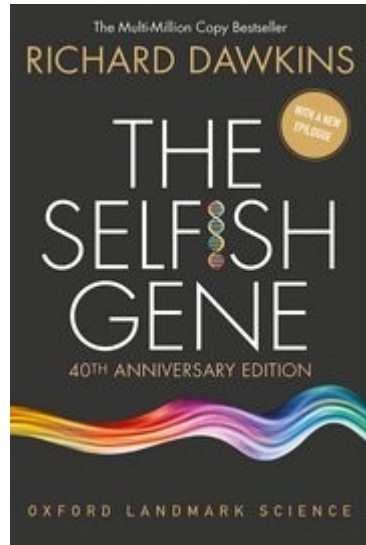
## Recommended Reading

Click on the [image](#) for more info

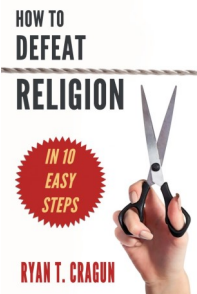
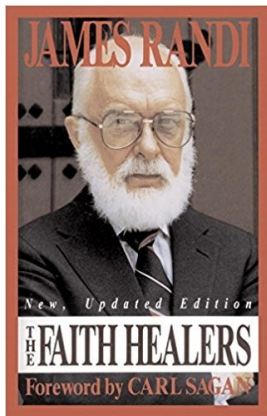


**Battling the Gods: Atheism in the Ancient World** How new is atheism? Although adherents and opponents alike today present it as an invention of the European Enlightenment, when the forces of science and secularism broadly challenged those of faith, disbelief in the gods, in fact, originated in a far more remote past. In *Battling the Gods*, Tim Whitmarsh journeys into the ancient Mediterranean, a world almost unimaginably different from our own, to recover the stories and voices of those who first refused the divinities.

**The Selfish Gene, 40th Anniversary Edition** The Commemorative anniversary edition of this landmark work which powerfully encapsulates a new way of looking at living things - a gene's eye view. Completely re-typeset, to make the book even more attractive to read. Includes a new epilogue by Richard Dawkins, discussing the continuing relevance of these ideas in evolutionary biology today



In *The Faith Healers*, James Randi, the celebrated magician, has written a damning indictment of the faith-healing practices of the leading televangelists and others who claim divine healing powers. Self-anointed ministers of God convince the gullible that they have been healed - and that they should pay for the service. The *Faith Healers* examines in depth the reasons for belief in faith healing and the catastrophic results for the victims of these hoaxes.



**Ryan Cragun, PhD**  
If you don't know him, where have you been?  
<https://www.ryantcragun.com/>



**Evolve Fish is a good source for 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](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com) Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

#### # TITLE

#### AUTHOR

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The Expanding Circle                         | Peter Singer                                  |
| 2. In Gods we Trust                             | Scott Atran                                   |
| 3. Why Evolution is True                        | Jerry Coyne                                   |
| 4. The Second World                             | Panag Khanna                                  |
| 5. Denialism                                    | Michael Specter                               |
| 6. The Selfish Gene                             | Richard Dawkins                               |
| 7. Democracy Incorporated                       | Sheldon Wolin                                 |
| 8. The Upside Irrationality                     | Dan Ariely                                    |
| 9. The End of Growth                            | Richard Heinberg                              |
| 10. <b>The God Delusion</b>                     | <b>Richard Dawkins</b>                        |
| 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. <b>Plan B</b>                               | <b>Lester Brown</b>                           |
| 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. <b>A brief History of Time</b>              | <b>Stephen Hawking</b>                        |
| 25. Breaking the Spell                          | Daniel Dennett                                |
| 26. <b>The Philosophy of Humanism</b>           | <b>Corliss Lamont</b>                         |
| 27. The Quotable Atheist                        | Jack Huberman                                 |
| 28. 50 Reasons People Believe In God.           | 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. <b>Why People Believe Weird Things</b>      | <b>Michael Shermer</b>                        |
| 45. The World is Curved                         | David Snick                                   |
| 46. The Snow Ball                               | Warren Buffett                                |
| 47. <b>The Moral Landscape</b>                  | <b>Sam Harris</b>                             |
| 48. <b>How We Believe</b>                       | <b>Michael Shermer</b>                        |
| 49. Full House                                  | Steven Jay Gould                              |
| 50. The Origins of Political Order              | Francis Fukuyama                              |
| 51. <b>Asimov's Guide to the Bible</b>          | <b>Isaac Asimov</b>                           |
| 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. What Happened in Ohio?                      | Fitrakis, Rosenfeld & Wasserman               |
| 61. Autobiography of Mark Twain                 | Ed. Harriet Elinor Smith                      |
| 62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible                |   |
| 63. <b>12 Vol Complete Works</b>                | <b>Robert Ingersoll (Thks, J. Rhinehardt)</b> |
| 64. On Religious Liberty                        | Roger Williams & Davis                        |
| 65. The God Makers                              | Baker & Hunt                                  |
| 66. Inevitable Illusions                        | M. Piatrelli-Palmarini                        |
| 67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do           | Peter McWilliams                              |
| 69. Bonk  | Mary Roach                                    |
| 70. What Money Can't Buy                        | Michael J. Sandel                             |
| 71. Financial Shenanigans                       | Howard Shilit                                 |
| 72. Sex & God                                   | Darrel Ray, ED.D                              |
| 73. Best American Non required Reading          | Dave Eggers                                   |
| 74. Reporting at Wit's End                      | St. Clair McKelway                            |
| 75. Corporations are not People                 | Clements                                      |
| 76. Could I Vote Mormon for president?          | Cragun - Phillips                             |
| 77. Culture of Honor                            | Nisbett - Cohen                               |
| 78. Rot on the Vine                             | Stenesh                                       |
| 79. <b>Thoughts of a Freethinker</b>            | <b>New Kaye</b>                               |

\* Essential works

For even more access to Freethought history and perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prah's Freethought Library. Contact [fprah@verizon.net](mailto:fprah@verizon.net)

# Atheists of Florida, Inc.



## Tracy Thomas, Chair – Al Hann, President

Join members of our Tampa chapter at our headquarters / Studio Building on So. Westshore.

**Activities:** [AoF Meetup](#) **Website:** <http://aof.ngo>

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

**For information on activities for this month, see our comprehensive web site:** <http://aof.ngo>

## Science Educators in public schools may have to treat religious beliefs as science fact

Proposed House Bill number 303 states: "A student may express his or her religious beliefs in coursework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination. A student's homework and classroom assignments shall be evaluated, regardless of their religious content, based on expected academic standards relating to the course curriculum and requirements. A student may not be penalized or rewarded based on the religious content of his or her work if the coursework, artwork, or other written or oral assignments require a student's viewpoint to be expressed."

Time for civil libertarians to get cracking...  
Committee Office Number (850) 717-4830



## Ever wonder what Florida Freethought groups are doing?

Now you can easily know. Atheists of Florida have a new freethought Calendar:  
<http://AtheistsOfFloridaInc.org/calendar/>  
Know what's going on around the entire state.

## Florida Constitutional Revision Commission

What is the Constitution Revision Commission?

"The Constitution Revision Commission is a group of 37 people appointed to review and recommend changes to the Florida Constitution," found in Article XI, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution. Every 20 years the commission is appointed to examine the Florida Constitution, hold public hearings and possibly recommend changes to the Florida Constitution for voter consideration. There are 37 people on the CRC—15 appointed by the Governor, 9 each appointed by the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and President of the Florida Senate, 3 appointed by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court and the Attorney General of the State of Florida.

Our main concerns is the repeal of the Blaine Amendment (which bars state funds from going to support religious institutions.) Most of the appointees are supporters of "School Choice". If the Blaine amendment is repealed, this would pave the way for school vouchers going to religious schools.

AoF is keeping track of what's going on with this, and keep you informed. You can visit [www.revisefl.com](http://www.revisefl.com) for detailed information about the process. This is not an official government site, but is run by a group of organizations who wants to ensure the public is informed.

**Judy Adkins, VP Atheists of Florida**



Clearwater, Florida

## Clearwater UU Humanists

**Usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 11:30**

We are a group of Unitarian Universalists committed to a humanistic and non-theistic worldview.

Currently, meetings are scheduled once monthly, usually on the third Sunday of most months after UU services.

This month come out on Friday, 21st evening at 7 to hear Chris Johnson speak on "A Better Life," his new film. \$5.00. See page 1 for more. A project of TB Coalition of Reason and Clearwater UU Humanists.



## St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

**Moderated by: Gary Thompson**

Contact: [easy8@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:easy8@tampabay.rr.com)

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

- \* Provide intellectual and emotional support to each other and to others in our community who share our philosophy.
- \* Foster humanistic moral values and ethical behaviors.
- \* Promote a naturalistic worldview wherein beliefs must be verified by a scientific examination of evidence.
- \* Defend the separation of church and state at all levels of government as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.
- \* "To Smell the Roses Along the Way"



## Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008.  
Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa,  
every 2nd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.

**April 10th. Topic: What is the Truth  
about History? or "Herstory"?**

[www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/](http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/)  
for more info.

## The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers



The MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) community was created for atheist and secular humanist military personnel stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, their families and retired military residing in the Tampa Bay area. MASH provides a valuable and much needed resource in which you will find common ground to socialize, discuss issues, and draw emotional support from like-minded members.

**Local Contact:** Chris  
( [christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:christbrown@yahoo.com) )  
MSgt, USAF (Retired)

On the web at: [www.maaf.info](http://www.maaf.info)

There *are* atheists in foxholes, your home, your workplace, your church. There's nothing new about that. Don't be afraid to visit with us.

## Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

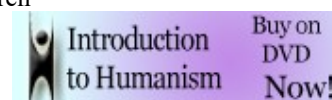
**Jennifer Hancock** started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in 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>.



## Tampa Bay Computer Society & Doc's Café



**We repair  
member's  
computers Free!**

Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. 300 S Duncan Ave Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755. [Map](#)

Check out [Doc's Café](#) to discuss serious ideas & issues.

Find us at:  
[www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org)



## The New Anti- semitism: Is There Anything We Can Do?

Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay

**Jeff Lipkes**, Leader  
Saturday, April, 1st 2017 2:00 PM

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library  
2902 W Bearss Ave, Tampa, FL 33618  
RSVP at [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com) [here](#).




**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



## Greater Tampa Chapter of the ACLU of Florida Annual Meeting, Election, and Panel Discussion: Campaign for Smart Justice

Where are we in our Criminal Justice Reform Campaign? Come and participate with us.  
(Disclaimer, Rick O'Keefe, coeditor of *Freethought News*, is on the ballot for reelection.)

Saturday, April 1, 11:00 AM

Western Michigan University Cooley Law School Tampa Bay Campus

9445 Camden Field Parkway

Riverview, FL 33578

—> **RSVP is required:** <http://bit.ly/2nS60LF>

### Maybe you don't think supporting CFI-Tampa Bay is important. Think about this:

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Jew. [Then they came for the atheists, secularists, humanists, and skeptics, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not publicly one of them.] Then they came for me-- and there was no one left to speak for me."

~ Martin Niemoller, pastor, initial supporter of Hitler, concentration camp survivor (1892 - 6 Mar 1984)

### Feel better! Please Join & Support CFI-Tampa Bay

Ready to put your humanism into action?

Join now to keep informed about our activities, participate in our programs, & *become a member!*

What are some benefits?

### Three Habits of Successful Learners

By [Burr Settles](#), [Masato Hagiwara](#)

*While this article concerns itself with language learners, it applies to every learning endeavor.*

Roughly 1.2 billion people worldwide are currently learning a foreign language. If you are one of them, this article is for you.

Whether you are learning to improve your job prospects, do better in school, get ready for a trip abroad or even just for fun, there are three common habits that all successful language learners share. We analyzed data from millions of Duolingo users and, in the process, discovered what it really takes to grasp a foreign tongue.

#### Learning a language is like losing weight (sort of)

Some language-learning services claim to be so effective that you'll be fluent in weeks — or even overnight (yeah, right!). Others claim to make you fluent by passively listening. We are more realistic: science and personal experience indicate that most people need time to become proficient in a second language. So what does it take to be successful in the long run?

It might help to compare language-learning with losing weight and staying fit. Can you lose 50 pounds overnight? Fat chance. Over the course of several months? Much more realistic.

... Here is some of what we have learned about the best habits for being a successful language learner.

Read the article here: <http://tcn.ch/2mJ25Rh>

CLICK  
—>>>  
NOW

**JOIN NOW**



## March for Science - St. Petersburg / Tampa

### March for Science St Pete/Tampa Organizers and Volunteers Recruitment Form

The March for Science is a celebration of our passion for science and a call to support and safeguard the scientific community. Recent government policy changes have caused heightened worry among scientists. The incredible and immediate outpouring of support has made clear that these concerns are also shared by hundreds of thousands of people around the world. The mischaracterization of science as a partisan issue, which has given policymakers permission to reject overwhelming evidence, is a critical and urgent matter. It is time for people who support scientific research and evidence-based policies to take a public stand and be counted.

On April 22, 2017 we march, prior to that we need volunteers to organize. In our recruitment list are teams to join or roles to be filled in the planning process. If you are willing to help out with any of these, or have ideas about planning the march please fill out the form HERE: <http://bit.ly/2ndqXDK> ASAP!

We want to emphasize respect and the fact that the city is our ally, we wish to do whatever is necessary to conduct the event the correct way and to accommodate the needs of the city. This is why we are working hard to make sure our permit is acquired in the right way. We are excited to work with you all to be a loud rallying cry in support of science. Please fill out this form if you haven't. We are aiming to reach out to volunteers ASAP. Onwards! ~~~~~

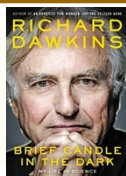
Get your t-shirt here: <http://bit.ly/2mHDyep>



**What is TIES? The Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES)** will give middle school teachers the tools they need to effectively teach evolution and answer its critics based on new Next Generation Science Standards.

Follow TIES:  

**Richard Dawkins' NEWEST book!**  
Exclusive autographed copy for only **\$26.95** plus S&H. Few are left.  
Go to: [www.evolutetampa.com](http://www.evolutetampa.com)



[Richard Dawkins Foundation  
for Reason & Science](http://www.richarddawkinsfoundation.org)

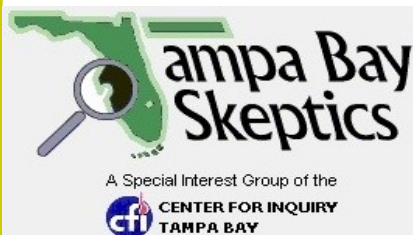
~~~~~ is the electrical symbol for resistance. Resistors, such as the one depicted here are common in electronics. They resist a measured flow of current, and in so doing, become hot with the power of flow.  
<https://www.resistancecalendar.org/>



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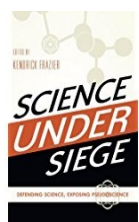
Founded in 1988 by [Gary P. Posner, M.D.](#), Tampa Bay Skeptics is a nonprofit educational and scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of paranormal and fringe-science claims, and the dissemination of factual information about such claims. [Read More!](#)

### Friedrich Nietzsche, *Daybreak: Thoughts on the Prejudices of Morality*

"Doubt as sin. — Christianity has done its utmost to close the circle and declared even doubt to be sin. One is supposed to be cast into belief without reason, by a miracle, and from then on to swim in it as in the brightest and least ambiguous of elements: even a glance towards land, even the thought that one perhaps exists for something else as well as swimming, even the slightest impulse of our amphibious nature — is sin! And notice that all this means that the foundation of belief and all reflection on its origin is likewise excluded as sinful. What is wanted are blindness and intoxication and an eternal song over the waves in which reason has drowned."



**Kendrick Frazier** is editor of the *Skeptical Inquirer Magazine* and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



He is editor of several anthologies, including *Science Under Siege: Defending Science, Exposing Pseudoscience*.



This article excerpt from our friend and mentor, Prof. Jack Robinson (deceased), illustrates how proponents of pseudo science attack science, scientists, and rational discussion.

### TBS vs. UFO Believers on TV by Jack Robinson

The scene was a public access TV studio in Tampa. On March 25th, [Gary Posner](#) and I were on *Malcolm the Magnificent* (since renamed *UFOs & Metaphysics*), to debate UFOs with host [Malcolm Hathorne](#) and his other guest, [Phil Bayly](#). If the criterion was who got to talk the most, they won -- 41 minutes to 17 (and during part of our time, Malcolm was talking simultaneously).

Malcolm's introduction of Bayly went on for three minutes. Bayly was said to be a retired Air Force Colonel who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in engineering, who then joined the Air Force and clocked over 5,000 flying hours. He attended the Command and General Staff College of the Air War College, and was -- both before and afterwards -- involved in clandestine programs. He is also an active UFO researcher affiliated with the [Mutual UFO Network \(MUFON\)](#).

In contrast, Gary's intro took 20 seconds. I was introduced simply by name, in one second flat. The fact that I am an astronomer was relevant but ignored.

... Lesson: Skeptics may be at a disadvantage in a debate with believers, because we may not be familiar with a specific case brought up, and it is impossible to prove a negative. But we can ask questions to get them to commit to specifics. And we can then check out their "evidence."

Dr. Jack Robinson



# "A Wondrous World"



By **Terry A. Smiljanich**,  
cofounder and past chair of Tampa Bay Skeptics

In his book *Skeptics and True Believers*, Chet Raymo tells the story of the red knot sandpiper, a migratory bird that spends its winters in Tierra del Fuego, at the southern tip of South America. As cold summer approaches the southern hemisphere, the sandpipers begin their 8,000-mile journey to Northern Canada, stopping en route for a respite on a small corner of Cape Cod. Once in Canada, the birds mate and give birth during the Canadian summer. Then, as fall approaches, the red knot sandpiper adults leave their young behind and begin their long 8,000-mile flight back to Tierra del Fuego.

Now, here comes the incredible part of the story. The juvenile sandpipers, having been left behind, continue to forage and grow in strength. Then, several weeks after their parents have left them, they too begin their migration south, flying for the first time the length of North and South America, stopping at the same place in Cape Cod along the way, and ending up back with their parents on a small spit of land 8,000 miles from their birthplace.

Think about that for a moment. The juvenile sandpipers, having never been "taught" the way home, are left behind with only their genetic codes residing in their cells. These codes are simply alternating chains of four nucleotides arranged in the famous double helix of DNA. Combinations of those nucleotides, called genes, call for the creation of specific proteins. Yet that simple chemical code somehow contains within it "maps" of a journey almost half way around the globe, detailed to the nearest quarter mile, enabling the birds to know where to stop along the way and how to locate a home they have never seen. All of this was achieved through millions of years of evolution by natural selection.

The next time someone touts a "psychic" who can guess that someone's grandmother recently died or suffers from cancer, or the next time someone claims that holding a hand over a person can vaguely influence the course of a disease, or the next time someone breathlessly describes a window stain that looks like the Virgin Mary, bring up the sandpiper story and see how that compares in the realm of wonder.

For too long now, inadequate high school science teachers, popular fiction, and the media have convinced many people that science is boring, scientists are evil, and reality is no fun. How can this be, with so many real-life "miracles" waiting to be uncovered all around us? Astronomy, geology, and quantum physics all contain more incredible facts than an army of "psychics" could come up with.

Religion has held a powerful grip on the human psyche ever since Neanderthals buried their dead with gifts for the hereafter. In addition to providing easily digestible answers to the great questions of life, one of the principal attractions of religion has been its ability to engender a sense of awe and wonder -- a humble acknowledgement of the subtle, intangible and all-powerful presence of immensities beyond human comprehension. Listen to a Gregorian chant and you, too, will share this feeling.

Yet science and reason can themselves lead to many of the same feelings of wonder at the immense and beautiful mysteries of the universe. As Raymo says (p. 255) in his short but profound book, "Science cannot nor should not be a religion, but it can be the basis for the religious experience: astonishment, experiential union, adoration, praise."

We must find ways to convey the beauty and mystery of science to more people. It is for this reason that Stephen Jay Gould, Isaac Asimov, Carl Sagan, Edward O. Wilson and Jacob Bronowski are among my personal heroes. Turning their back on comfortable scientific studies addressed to their colleagues, they turned instead to the public and shared with us their celebration of the human spirit embodied in science and reason. To quote Raymo again (p. 252), their motto was: "If there be a skeptical star I was born under it, yet I have lived all my days in complete astonishment." That should be our motto as well.

The fear of God is not the beginning of wisdom. The fear of God is the death of wisdom. Skepticism and doubt lead to study and investigation, and investigation is the beginning of wisdom.

~ Clarence Darrow





The ISHV voiced strong opposition to H. J. Res 83, a Congressional Review Act Resolution of Disapproval that would repeal an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rule that clarifies an employer's responsibility to maintain accurate records of serious work related injuries and illnesses. This resolution will undermine workplace health and safety in the most dangerous industries.

This OSHA clarifying rule does not impose any new costs nor any new obligations to covered employers, nor does it affect small businesses. It simply clarifies OSHA's authority to hold employers accountable for their longstanding obligation to maintain accurate injury records, a requirement that has been in effect since the Nixon Administration. Further, the rule only covers larger employers in the most dangerous industries.

For over 40 years, only larger employers in high hazard industries have been required to maintain records of serious work related injuries and illnesses. OSHA regulations, issued in the 1970's, require employers to maintain records for five years. Since then, the Department's longstanding position has been that an employer had an ongoing duty to assure that those records were accurate. The Department of Labor uses these records as the basis for published statistics on workplace injury and illness rates and OSHA uses them to allocate scarce agency resources for compliance assistance and enforcement. Employers use these records as a guide to identify and fix job dangers that injure and maim workers.

This rule is needed because in 2012, a court decision overturned 40 years of recordkeeping precedent and made it impossible for OSHA to enforce against recordkeeping violations in dangerous industries that are more than six months old. One of the three judges indicated that OSHA could enforce for continuing violations of its recordkeeping rule if the agency clarified its regulation. The rule that is the subject of H.J. Res 83 remedies the problem and clarifies that OSHA may enforce for continuing violations for the failure to record serious work related injuries and illnesses.

Accurate injury and illness records are vitally important to the protection of workers. They are the most important tool that employers and government use to identify and eliminate job hazards that kill over 4,800 workers a year and seriously injure almost 3 million more. OSHA can only inspect every workplace under its jurisdiction once every 140 years. If employers have no obligation to maintain accurate records during the five year retention period, worker health and safety will be seriously jeopardized.

We are one of many organizations that strongly support ensuring safer workplaces and protecting workers from serious workplace hazards. We ask you to stand with American workers and oppose H.J. Res 83. The OSHA clarifying rule on maintaining accurate records imposes no new costs to business, but is critical to assuring that workplace fatalities and injuries are prevented.

ISHV is one of more than 65 national organizations supporting this view that adequate protection for workers is a key human right that must be protected by government. Submitted on February 28th to Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Foxx, and Ranking Member Scott.

Thanks to **Toni Van Pelt**



A New Day is dawning... are you ready to **Get United?**

Want to know what secular activities are happening in your city?  
Download the free app @UnitedCoR.org/app  
and Get United.

facebook United Coalition Of Reason  
twitter @UnitedCoR

We're sitting on the edge of something really big here by using technology to our advantage, and by doing this, we're using each others' networks to benefit lots of secular groups and secular-friendly people to unite all of us: not only in the US, but also in global locations, since the app already has a few international cities listed.

It's a "brand new day" for us and all the CoR groups around the country who now have the opportunity to Get United.



## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – April, 2017 Calendar

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.*  
 Your **RSVP** is requested, and often is required for admittance. *Meeting planners need this information.*  
*Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://www.tampabaycor.org/>*



|                                                                         |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd Sunday, 2 PM                                                        | BRANDON–CFI Sunday Social, with Tampa Bay Skeptics            | Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>                                                                                        |    |
| TBA – various activities                                                | S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida, Inc.                            | Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup">http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup</a>                                                                                                                                         |    |
| TBA – various activities                                                | S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..                            | Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup">http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup</a>                                                                                                                 |    |
| 1st Saturday, 2 PM                                                      | DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast                        | Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists">http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists</a><br><b>Not this week! See Page 2 for details</b>                                                                           |    |
| 3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM                                                    | E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists                        | Details: <a href="http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists">http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists</a>                                                                                                                                                  |    |
| TBA – various activities at MOSI                                        | E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI | Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi">http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi</a><br>Other events: <a href="http://bit.ly/MARS-home">http://bit.ly/MARS-home</a>                                                                |    |
| TBA - numerous events—next Spring                                       | E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF                         | See <a href="#">Web site</a> for full listing of many events & calendar. <a href="http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities">http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities</a> Locations vary! <b>Page 11.</b>                                                |   |
| 4th Monday, 6 PM                                                        | N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper                      | <b>RSVP is required.</b> Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI &amp; TBS paid members.</i> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>                                                                 |  |
| 3rd Saturday, 11 AM                                                     | NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.                              | Details & <b>RSVP</b> : <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists">http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists</a>                                                                                                                                   |  |
| 4th Saturday, 10:30 AM;                                                 | NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion                  | Limited to 10 paid-up CFI members. <b>RSVP is required.</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a> <i>Must have read the book under discussion to attend</i>                                     |  |
| 3rd Monday, 7 PM                                                        | NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers                           | Lively discussions. <b>RSVP</b> here: <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers">http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers</a>                                                                                                               |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly. | ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club                                | For several dates, locations, & details: <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home</a><br><a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar</a> |  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday plus various other times/venues                | TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry                          | Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>                                                                                                                                     |  |
| TBA – various activities                                                | TAMPA BAY AREA– Humanist Families                             | <b>RSVP</b> here: Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP: <a href="http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN">http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN</a>                                                                                                |  |