

Vol. 6 No. 8, August, 2017 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought

News



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* TB-CoR member

Federal 'Johnson Amendment' may be overthrown

The current spending bill says the IRS can't use funds to investigate a church for breach of the Johnson Amendment without the sign-off of the IRS commissioner, who must report to Congress on the investigation. On June 29th, the House Appropriations Committee voted 28-24 to keep language from Section 116 in a funding bill. This provision puts a further chilling effect on any attempts by IRS staff to enforce the Johnson Amendment with respect to pulpit speech — the part of the amendment that conservative churches have most opposed," Haynes said. "At its worst, the provision keeps IRS staff

from doing its job to prevent charitable donations to flow to political campaigns.."

The amendment, which affects all 501c3 organizations, was initiated and passed at the behest of President Lyndon Johnson in 1954. It simply limits tax exempt organizations from advocating for political candidates. Right wing churches routinely ignore it, but could loose their tax status if found in violation by the IRS.

This measure is now part of the budget Reconciliation Act, which is due for a vote any day now. Contact your representatives. JP



Toni Van Pelt

Toni Van Pelt elected President of NOW, the National Organization of Women in its recent election. Toni has a long and distinguished career in the leadership of many groups, ...See page 4

Coming for **Darwin Day**, next February:

The Evolution of Human Happiness



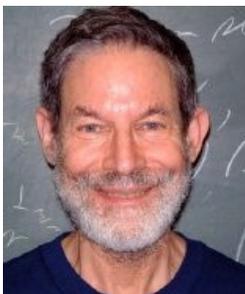
The Board of Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason is pleased to announce the theme for our 2018 annual celebration of science, secularism, and human progress. The place to be happy is here; the time is now. Discover the roots of our most pressing pursuit - this February. Watch for more information here, soon.

JP



October 21st to the 23rd in Orlando will feature amazing speakers, activities, and banquets. *It's time to feel good again!* Register by July 31st (quick!!) for early bird prices at: <http://www.freeflo.org/register>

Herb Silverman on tour in November



Herb Silverman, Founder of the Secular Coalition for America and Distinguished Math Professor Emeritus at the College of Charleston, will speak on his new book *An Atheist Stranger in a Strange Religious Land: Selected Writings From*

the Bible Belt, which contains excerpts from The Washington Post, Huffington Post, The Humanist, Free Inquiry, and other magazines and blogs. You will hear about his "support" for the Ku Klux Klan, Jerry Falwell, and why he should become Pope. He will also mention his run for Governor of South Carolina, which he wrote about in his first book, *Candidate Without a Prayer*. Tour details in next issue.

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

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

This publication online at: www.tampabaycor.net



Our 30th Year

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](#), & [CSH](#) Find us at www.suncoasthumanist.com

Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL

Volume 30 No. 8 August, 2017

The Internet of Things



Dave "Doc" Dockery

It seems that everywhere we are accosted by the disembodied voices of our electro-mechanical servants. They want to see to our every need, and help us out of the perplexity arising from our ignorance and ineptitude. Whether it turns

our lights off and on, adjusts the comfort level of the AC, drives our cars, tells us the capital of Ecuador, or starts the coffee, the ubiquitous proprietors of our well being are creating a new landscape of convenience, at least for those able to afford it.

The social, economic, and political consequences of this new age have yet to be fully unraveled, but it is certain that our lives are about to become very different. In the devolving project of the Trump era, many traditional expectations are being turned around in a convulsive reactionary moment of destruction as government policies of

Celebrating

30 Years of Humanism

In west central Florida

long standing are being erased, and power and trade relations become subject to whimsical adjustment. This chaos imposed on the natural world, also seems to herald new dangers to our species if left unchecked.

But we will start at the beginning. Dave will help us learn more about the more intimate role these new technologies may play in our lives. All this is taking place not in 50 years, but right now. Dave will be our guide. Join us.

JP



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 & growing in the Tampa Bay area A small part of your dues allows us to participate fully as a member organization of the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason & enables us to support larger & more exciting programs.

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

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

Name: _____

Address -if new : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: * _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send 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



Tampa Bay Harvest

Food: the first kindness & 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 & Jordan Williams. Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance. See Page 17 also. **We need volunteers!** Write to jim@suncoasthumanist.com

Be with us at

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

Saturday, August 5 at 2:00 PM

Many of us go to dinner afterwards at: Los Amigos restaurant not far from the Library.

Wedding, Child naming, Memorial?

Florida has a large number of celebrants who are specially trained to solemnize the important life transitions in the Humanist way. <http://thehumanistsociety.org/celebrants/map/#FL>



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

What is the Humanist Way?

◆ To extend a human centered approach to the critical problems of life & society.

◆ To encourage attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance & a loving generosity in human relationships, & in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others, & encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture & experience.

◆ To develop & popularize the skills of creative & critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition & irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.

◆ To exalt those artistic & imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure & enlightenment, & which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, & other expressions, we embrace the essence of what it means to be human.

◆ To explore the grounds of ethics & morality within the unfolding history of our evolving culture. Such knowledge will enable us to become effective protagonists for the happiness of the individual person. JP

The Movable Feast

the Humanist Society's monthly social Dinner
is BACK!

Join us on Sunday, August 20th
at 5 O'clock at:

Applebee's

5110 E Bay Dr
Clearwater, FL 33764
(727) 539-6388

For map & more info: [http://
restaurants.applebees.com/fl/clearwater/5110-e-bay-dr.html](http://restaurants.applebees.com/fl/clearwater/5110-e-bay-dr.html)

Kindly RSVP to: (727) 581-2146

Great Conversation and good food, reasonably priced.

Laugh Lines THE CYNIC'S DICTIONARY 08-17

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

AUTHOR: A writer with connections in the publishing industry.

BALDERDASH: A rapidly receding hairline.

BEAUTY PARLOR: A place where women curl up and dye.

BOSS: A personal dictator appointed to those of us fortunate enough to live in free societies.

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

CHILDHOOD: The rapidly shrinking interval between infancy and first arrest on a drug or weapons charge.

COFFEE: The person upon whom one coughs.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

CONSCIOUSNESS: that annoying time between naps.

DENIAL: How an optimist keeps from becoming a pessimist.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

ESPLANADE: To attempt an explanation while drunk.

EXPERIENCE: In the working world, something you can't get unless you've already got it, in which case you probably don't want any more of it. JP

Humanist society of the Suncoast

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

Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

Jay Alexander,
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~*~*~*~*~*~*

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor
E-Mail us at:
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](#)

August 15th, 11 AM

Discussion Leader: **Lucas Hopegood**



Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, & AHA
affiliate.

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

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

At present, we are a small, intimate group meeting in a neighborhood library. But we are ambitious, and hope to grow. Ideally, such small discussion groups should appear in every neighborhood. The need is as great as the potential. What is required is a few longtime humanists willing to take on the relatively small effort to secure a library meeting room once a month, post a few notices here and there (including this newsletter), and show up to lead a discussion, share a little knowledge; give something to the future.

As Issac Asimov, our former president, is quoted as saying, “Since you can’t take it with you, send it on ahead.” Humanism is as much in need of good followership as it is of effective leadership. Now is the time to do your part in either category. We can help. JP

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



Coming in November: Professor Herb Silverman, of USC. He will talk about his new books, and lead a discussion on dealing with the new social and political realities of our country.

Humanism: a Historical assessment

Humanism in large measure established the climate and provided the medium for the rise of modern thought. An impressive variety of major developments in literature, philosophy, art, religion, social science, and even natural science have their basis in humanism or are significantly nourished by it. Important spokesmen in all fields regularly make use of humanistic eloquence to further their causes. More generally, the so-called modern awareness—that sense of alienation and freedom applied both to the individual and society—derives ultimately from humanistic sources. But with humanism, as with every other historical subject, one should beware, lest valid concern about changes, crises, sources, and influences obscure the even more important issues of human continuity and human value. Whatever its weaknesses and inner conflicts, the humanist movement is heroic in its breadth and energy, remarkable in its aspirations. For human development in all fields, it created a context of seldom-equaled fertility. Its characteristic modalities of thought, speech, and image lend themselves to the media for enduring achievement. Its moral program forms the basis for lives that are remembered with admiration.



The Crafty Freethinker ... Yorkshire lass born and bred, currently living in the Sunshine State. Maker of fine Secular Jewelry, and lifelong freethinker, my work can be seen by clicking on the image at left.



Toni Van Pelt Elected President of NOW

Continued from page 1

including, most recently, the Institute for Science and Humanism. Before that she was CEO of Center for Inquiry Florida, and has generally been an activist with a variety of worthy causes in the bay area.

She has been a board member of the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason, the publisher of this Newsletter, where her service has been highly regarded and much appreciated.

We have always been impressed by what an extraordinarily accomplished person she is, and by the critical values and essential skills she has used to further her Humanist aspirations. We wish her the best of the luck she very much deserves.

Rick O’Keefe, coordinator of CFI Tampa Bay, was introduced to secular humanism by Toni when he interviewed her in 2002 for a news article. He says, “I was quickly impressed with Toni’s breadth of experience and knowledge about fighting for human rights and fact-based reason. I signed up as a volunteer for CFI because Toni showed me how vital humanism and skepticism are in advancing civil discourse, education, and living a good life. NOW will likewise benefit from Toni’s boundless energy and wisdom. Thanks, good friend.” JP& RO

Humanist Quotes

“Disciplined adherence to authority, when viewed as an end in itself, has led to the most horrible atrocities. History is replete with examples of how otherwise decent people, when conditioned to follow orders regardless of their personal reservations, can be led to massacre men, women and children.”

Joseph Daleiden

Misleading by Petition

Just What is the Consensus on Global Warming?

by *Gary J. Whittenberger Ph.D.*

Is global warming a real phenomenon, and if so, are humans causing or contributing to it by burning fossil fuels and will it lead to an increased frequency and/or severity of natural disasters? The American public looks to science or scientists to help answer these questions. A petition circulated by a small group of scientists is creating quite a stir, arousing considerable praise and disdain from groups on different sides of the global warming issue.

The petition drive was begun by Dr. Frederick Seitz, now deceased, and is now led by Dr. Arthur Robinson and his son, Dr. Noah Robinson, both members of the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine (OISM), who remain the chief organizers and expositors of the petition project. Seitz was a physicist and past president of both the National Academy of Sciences and Rockefeller University. The two Robinsons are both chemists and Arthur Robinson is the current director of OISM. According to the website which reports the details of the petition and is presumably authored by Arthur Robinson, “the purpose of the Petition Project is to demonstrate that the claim of “settled science” and an overwhelming “consensus” in favor of the hypothesis of humancaused global warming and consequent climatological damage is wrong.”¹ Robinson asserts not just that his collection of 31,072 signatures on a petition has refuted the claim of “settled science” and “overwhelming consensus” among scientists with regard to global warming, but that “The very large number of petition signers demonstrates that, if there is a consensus among American scientists, it is in opposition to the humancaused global warming hypothesis rather than in favor of it.”² Not only has Robinson failed to substantiate either of his assertions, he is misleading the American public by implying that his petition fairly represents relevant expert opinion.

To understand the problems with Robinson’s “Global Warming Petition Project”, we must first examine how the petition itself was distributed and how signatures were collected. To a sample of persons on the mailing list of American Men and Women of Science,³ Robinson sent a petition packet consisting of a petition card, a return envelope, a cover letter from Seitz, and a 12-page review of the literature on the human-caused global warming hypothesis authored by the two Robinsons and Willie Soon.⁴ The two main assertions stated on the petition card were that there is no convincing scientific evidence that the human release of carbon dioxide and other gases is causing harmful atmospheric heating and climate change and that the U.S. government should reject the Kyoto Agreement and any other similar proposals. Arthur Robinson not only requested that recipients return the signed petition card, if they agreed with its assertions, but also arranged for the recipients to distribute petition packets to their colleagues. He also enabled other persons to obtain petition packets by simply requesting them through his website, and this procedure ultimately produced five percent of the returned petition cards. Thus, signed petitions were solicited in three different ways.

Although the website for the petition indicates that checks of credentials and identity were performed for signatories of the

returned petitions, and invalid petitions were excluded, how the checks were performed is not described. Signed petition cards were accepted only if they came from persons who had “obtained formal educational degrees at the level of Bachelor of Science or higher in appropriate scientific fields”.⁵ In the end, “valid” and signed petition cards were obtained from 31,072 persons with degrees in the following fields: Earth science (3,697 persons or 12% of the total); computer science and mathematics (903 or 3%); physics and aerospace sciences (5,691 or 18%); chemistry (4,796 or 15%); biology and agriculture (2,924 or 9%); medicine (3,069 or 10%); and engineering and general science (9,992 or 32%). The breakdown according to educational level was: PhD (9,021 or 29%); MS (6,961 or 22%); MD and DVM (2,240 or 7%); and BS or equivalent (12,850 or 41%).⁵ On his website Robinson fails to report the cross-tabulations of fields of expertise and levels of education for his petition respondents. For example, we aren’t told what percentage of the persons with Earth science expertise had Ph.D. degrees.



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

Although in one interview Robinson called his petition project a “survey”⁶, it is definitely not a survey, and because it is not a well-designed scientific survey of the views of a group of relevant experts, its results cannot be used to reach the conclusions about “consensus” that are asserted and hoped for by Robinson. In the first place, Robinson presents neither a dictionary nor an operational definition of “consensus”. He wants to reach conclusions about a consensus, but he spends no time telling us what he thinks a consensus is. According to Merriam-Webster’s Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary, a “consensus” may refer to general agreement, unanimity, judgment by most of those concerned, or group solidarity. Of course if we use the “unanimity” definition of “consensus”, then Robinson’s Global Warming Petition Project shows that a consensus of persons with science degrees, even those with relevant degrees, does not support the hypothesis of human-caused global warming. But this is a trivial conclusion; we knew this before the petition drive! The “unanimity” definition of “consensus”, however, is not the one in which the American public is interested.

If Robinson had been conducting a true survey, he would have offered an operational definition of “consensus” before he started his inquiry. Robinson misleads the public to think that a consensus is defined by some large absolute number of persons. It is not. It is determined by a large percentage of persons in a relevant sample. Does Robinson, or the general public, think of a consensus as agreement within a given group at a level of 75%, 90%, or some other percentage? He does not tell us. He reports only the number of persons who sent back signed petition cards, but he reports neither the total number of persons to whom he sent petition cards in the first place nor the number of persons to whom he sent ...

Continuation on age 6

Petition *Continued from Page 5*

See petition cards who subsequently returned only messages of disagreement. Since Robinson chose to conduct a petition project rather than a well-designed scientific survey, he cannot reach valid conclusions about any consensus, and he should not have attempted to do so.

Had Robinson been interested in finding out the truth about the views of relevant scientists rather than pursuing his own political agenda, he would have given a great deal more consideration to sample selection. Who is a relevant scientific expert when it comes to evaluating the human-caused global warming hypothesis? Robinson seems to have very lenient inclusion criteria. He even seems to think that persons with Bachelors degrees in mathematics and engineering are relevant and qualified experts on the issue. This seems to make about as much sense as considering electricians to be experts on plumbing because they have certificates from trade school just as plumbers do.

In a recent e-mail communication with an acquaintance of mine in which he defended his broad inclusion criteria, Robinson said “In fact, climate science is a very simple discipline. The data is [are] very limited and very easily understood—as is illustrated in our review article...”⁷ I wonder what percentage of climatologists or Earth scientists would agree with Robinson about this. Robinson doesn’t seem to have much respect for their area of specialization. What reaction might Robinson have if scientists who are not chemists called his area of research on “deamidation of peptides and proteins”⁸ a “very simple discipline with very limited data which are very easily understood”. I think that the American public would be interested in knowing the views of a more restricted sample than the one used by Robinson. For the main hypothesis concerning human-caused global warming, it would be desirable to know the opinions of scientists with doctoral degrees in climatology or Earth science who had spent most of their lives studying the relevant phenomena. A survey of a large random sample of these scientists would be illuminating and helpful.

There are other flaws in Robinson’s project. If Robinson had been conducting a real survey rather than a petition drive, he would not have allowed three different ways for persons to participate in his project. Instead he would have arranged for persons to participate in only one way; he would have randomly selected participants from a well-defined, qualified and relevant population of scientific experts. Furthermore, in his petition project Robinson simply asked persons with science degrees to sign the petition if they agreed with its content. But did they agree with all 20 overlapping propositions embedded in the four sentences of the petition? Did they agree with most of them? Did they agree with at least 50% of them? We don’t know. In a real survey, Robinson would have constructed a questionnaire in which his respondents could have addressed each of the 20 propositions in which he was interested or possibly each of the main propositions actually stated in Al Gore’s popular book, *An Inconvenient Truth*, for which Robinson expresses great disdain.⁹ At the least, in a survey Robinson would have provided five response options for each proposition, something like “strongly disagree, moderately disagree, neither disagree nor agree, moderately agree, and strongly agree”. Or he might have provided a similar scale using anchors such as: “definitely false, probably false, uncertain if false or true, probably true, definitely true”. These response

options would have allowed participants the opportunity to more fully express the subtlety and variety of their positions. Robinson may be a brilliant chemist, but he seems to know almost nothing about the behavioral sciences, especially about conducting sound scientific surveys.

Finally, the petition drive can be viewed as an “attempt to persuade” since it included the article reviewing the literature on global warming written by Robinson himself and two others, and it included the cover letter of endorsement from Seitz. The article and cover letter are bound to be biased towards Robinson’s point of view. If Robinson had been interested in finding the truth about expert opinion instead of manipulating that opinion, he would have done one of the following: 1) Sent a questionnaire with no accompanying review article or endorsement letter. (Probably the best option.) 2) Sent a review article not written by himself but by an independent expert representative of qualified climatologists. Or 3) Sent two review articles by two qualified climatologists from different perspectives, reaching different conclusions about humancaused global warming.

In conclusion, through his Global Warming Petition Project, Arthur Robinson has solicited the opinions of the wrong group of people in the wrong way and drawn the wrong conclusions about any possible consensus among relevant and qualified scientists regarding the hypothesis of human-caused global warming. His petition is unqualified to deliver answers about a consensus in which the public is interested. He has a right to conduct any kind of petition drive he wishes, but he is not ethically entitled to misrepresent his petition as a fair reflection of relevant scientific opinion. He has confused his political with his scientific aims and misled the public in the process.

The Author, Gary Whittenberger, is a free-lance writer and psychologist, living in Tallahassee, Florida. He received his doctoral degree from Florida State University after which he worked for 23 years as a psychologist in prisons. He has published many articles on science, philosophy, psychology, and religion, and their intersections.

This article is from the Skeptic© website: <http://www.skeptic.com/>

Denial is not a River in Egypt

Throughout the English speaking world there is a dangerous political polarization around climate change. In one particularly disturbing [poll](#), attitudes to climate change were a better predictor of respondents’ political orientation than any other issue- including gun control, abortion and capital punishment. Denial of climate change is not just an opinion, it has become a dominant mark of people’s political identity.

This is no small problem. People with conservative values (some of whom may also vote for center-left parties) constitute the majority in almost all countries. In US surveys, people who identify strongly with these values outnumber those who identify with liberal/left values by a factor of 2:1.

Climate change exists for us in the form of socially constructed narratives built upon our values and identity. It is these narratives - not the underlying science or even the evidence of our own eyes- that leads us to accept or reject the issue.

Diversity’ is a powerful frame for progressives but its components have been entirely defined by the struggles of marginalized groups for representation. It makes us blind to our own failure to involve the majority of our fellow citizens.



The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values. Since 2002, our all-volunteer chapter has served West Central Florida. Won't you support us? [Join our community today.](#)



*Rick O'Keefe,
Coordinator*

Planning Ahead

Generally, our monthly schedule is ...

- ◆ General presentation: 2nd Saturday
- ◆ Brandon Skeptical Brunch: 2nd Sunday
- ◆ CFI book club: 4th Saturday
- ◆ Freethinkers Dinner: 4th Monday (or Tuesday)
- ~ & with others ~
- ◆ Free computer repair: every Wednesday & Friday
- ◆ Tampa Bay Thinkers: 2nd Monday
- ◆ Tampa Bay Technology Center: 2nd Tuesday
- ◆ USF Humanities Institute: Varies, evenings
- ◆ And much more

Calendar: http://bit.ly/CFI-Tampa_Bay



Cause & Effect is the biweekly newsletter of the Center for Inquiry community, covering the wide range of work that your membership helps make possible. (Now on its new schedule, every other Wednesday.)

Keep up with important issues in freethought.

[Become a member today!](#)

Our local community of freethinkers, Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay, is an all-volunteer organization. Members work together to share our humanist comradery in fostering a better world for all people, not just the monetarily successful. Without volunteers, CFI Tampa Bay can do little. Without paying members, we can't afford to accomplish much in the way of socials, speakers, guest film-makers and authors, buying office supplies, etc. Showing up at civic engagements that further our life views is important, especially if our members wear something that says "CFI", such as pins, shirts, signs. Asking friends to our gatherings and to join CFI is valuable in growing our membership. Not being a member but enjoying the activities is a dubious expression of commitment, don't you agree?

The Fall season of 2nd Saturday programs, and special socials begins afresh in September. The Book Club, dinners and luncheons continue, as do cooperative activities with Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason and the Tampa Bay Technology Center. Announcements of our activities usually appear on our Meetup, so you should join it (free) and RSVP to let us know that you read the announcement; RSVPs let us know how many are expected to attend. That way we can obtain the right-sized venue and provide the supplies. Thanks,.

Meetup: http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup

Short video: <http://bit.ly/2spBdsu>

Home page: http://bit.ly/CFI-Tampa_Bay

Contact us: http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Contact

Join us with benefits: http://bit.ly/CFI-TampaBay_Support_Us



CFI's all new "Point of Inquiry" Podcast

*The flagship podcast of the Center for Inquiry
is beginning a brand new chapter!*

We want to believe that climate change can be stopped, that humanity can summon the political will to take decisive and meaningful action to avert disaster. But the difficult reality is that even if we make our very best efforts to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, climate change is coming. The real question now is how bad are we going to allow it to get?

You can subscribe to *Point of Inquiry* in your podcast app of choice, and if you're already a subscriber, well, *don't go anywhere!*



Our Mission: The Center for Inquiry strives to foster a secular society based on reason, science, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values.

Our Vision: A world where people value evidence and critical thinking, where superstition and prejudice subside, and where science and compassion guide public policy.

Our Values: Integrity, Courage, Innovation, Empathy, Learning, Wonder

An amazing freethought research resource

<http://bit.ly/2t0G0Bw>

Welcome to the new Center for Inquiry Libraries web pages. We are busy adding new content to our libraries, cataloging, creating metadata for digital projects, scanning materials, and providing information to our staff, researchers, and supporters alike.

Links to [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and our libraries' [blog](#). Please feel free to contact us about these pages, and if there is something you might want to see, let us know what it is, and maybe we can incorporate your idea here.

Thank you for supporting the Center for Inquiry Libraries. Timothy Binga, Director

What Makes Everyday Scientific Reasoning So Challenging?

Abstract: Informed citizens are expected to use science-based evidence to make decisions about health, behavior and public policy. To do so, they must judge whether the evidence is consistent with the claims presented (theory-evidence coordination). Unfortunately, most individuals make numerous errors in theory-evidence coordination. In this chapter, we provide an overview of research on science evidence evaluation, drawing from research in cognitive and developmental psychology, science and statistics education, decision sciences, political science and science communication. Given the breadth of this research area, we highlight some influential studies and reviews across these different topics. This body of research provides several clues about: (1) why science evidence evaluation is challenging, (2) the influence of the content and context of the evidence and (3) how the characteristics of the individual examining the evidence impact the quality of the evaluations. Finally, we suggest some possible directions for empirical research on improving evidence evaluation and point to the responsibility of scientists, especially social and behavioral scientists, in communicating their findings to the public. Overall, our goal is to give readers an interdisciplinary view of science evidence evaluation research and to integrate research from different scientific communities that address similar questions.

– Read the journal article [here](#).



Swiping Left on the Religious, June 1, 2017

By [Vicki Smith](#)

“Find yourself a good Christian man,” my grandmother once told me. I giggled to myself a little. She has no idea I am an atheist and as such I have no intentions of marrying a Christian man, or any religious person.

Is it wrong of me to say that – to turn someone down based on their faith?

A similar question was posed on an atheist Facebook group a while ago and it has stuck with me since. An atheist man had recently begun dating a woman who is a Christian, but determines he is no longer able to be with her even though he still loves and cares for her. He feels dating a Christian is not best for his relationship, nor for his future children. It bothers him enough that he ends up calling the relationship off. He then turns to his atheist community, explaining his story, and looking for general support.

I was flabbergasted by the responses. Fellow atheists tore into the original poster, calling him selfish and closed-minded for rejecting her based on her faith. It was determined by many that “love is all that matters.” There were those who understood, but there seemed to be an overwhelming number of atheists who asserted that the religious beliefs of a partner do not, and should not, matter. I wondered if I was in the wrong group.

Read the rest here: <http://bit.ly/2umAVXQ>

5 Reasons It's So Hard To Think Like A Scientist

By [Christian Jarrett](#)

Thinking like a scientist is really hard, even for scientists. It requires putting aside your own prior beliefs, evaluating the quality and meaning of the evidence before you, and weighing it in the context of earlier findings. But parking your own agenda and staying objective is not the human way.

Consider that even though scientific evidence overwhelming supports the theory of evolution, a third of Americans think the theory is “absolutely false”. Similarly, the overwhelming scientific consensus is that human activity has contributed to climate change, yet around a third of Americans doubt it.

We Brits are just as blinkered. In a recent survey, over 96 per cent of teachers here said they believed pupils learn better when taught via their preferred learning style, even though scientific support for the concept is virtually non-existent. Why is it so hard to think like a scientist? In a [new chapter](#) in the *Psychology of Learning and Motivation* book series, Priti Shah at the University of Michigan and her colleagues have taken a detailed look at the reasons, and here we pull out five key insights:

We're swayed by anecdotes

When making everyday decisions, such as whether to begin a new treatment or sign up to a particular class at uni, most of us are influenced more powerfully by personal testimony from a single person than by impersonal ratings or outcomes averaged across many people. This is the power of anecdote to dull our critical faculties. In a [study published last year](#) Fernando Rodriguez and his colleagues asked dozens of students to evaluate scientific news reports that drew inappropriate conclusions from weak evidence. Some of the reports opened with an anecdote supporting the inappropriate conclusion, other reports lacked an anecdote and acted as a control condition. Regardless of their level of university training or knowledge of scientific concepts, the students were less competent at critically evaluating the reports when they opened with an anecdote. “Anecdotal stories can undermine our ability to make scientifically driven judgements in real-world contexts,” the researchers said. Of course much health and science news in the mainstream media is delivered via ... Read the rest [here](#).

SCOTUS Trinity Lutheran Decision “Detonates a Massive Breach” in the Wall of Separation

The Center for Inquiry expressed its extreme disappointment with the Supreme Court’s decision in *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Comer*, concerned that the ruling contradicts the long held understanding of the Establishment Clause and will allow churches and religious institutions to circumvent the constitutional restrictions on the public funding of religion.

“The Supreme Court has detonated a massive breach in the wall of separation between church and state,” said Nicholas Little, Legal Director of the Center for Inquiry. “In fact the justices have laid the groundwork for additional confusion and conflict, as they have they provided no real method for deciding whether future applications by churches for taxpayer subsidy will be acceptable or not.”

In a split decision, the Supreme Court ruled that excluding the playground of Trinity Lutheran Church from a public grant program offered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to fund the purchase of recycled tires to resurface playgrounds violated the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment. The Court held that Trinity Lutheran was excluded from the program because it was a church, which constituted religious discrimination.

“This case was never really about a playground or recycled tires,” said Little. “This was about whether religious institutions can be eligible for public funds for what they claim are secular purposes. The Court has long held that the direct cash funding of religious organizations violates the Constitution. In paying for the renovation of its playground, the state of Missouri relieves Trinity Lutheran Church of a financial burden, which frees the church to use those funds for explicitly sectarian purposes. That is unacceptable.”

In July 2016, the Center for Inquiry signed onto an amicus brief with the ACLU and other organizations arguing that granting taxpayer dollars to the church, even for a playground, would amount to the public funding of a particular religion — funds that would be provided by members of other, non-Lutheran faiths and no faith — in violation of the Constitution.

“It is all the more confounding that the plaintiffs were not even willing to say that the playground had no religious purpose, as the preschool for which it is used is considered part of the church’s religious mission,” said Little. “We are deeply concerned about what happens next, as other sectarian organizations find new and novel ways to siphon taxpayer dollars into their churches, temples, and mosques.”

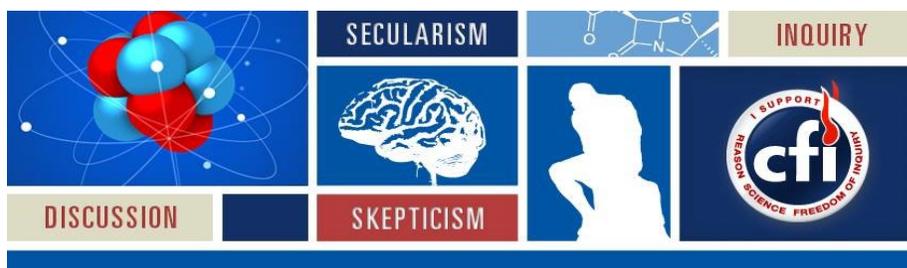
Skeptics don't do scientific research. Skeptics examine claims to see what the scientific basis for them is, marshalling critical thinking and facts with an open mind. What is not controversial among scientists in their specialties is sometimes controversial among the unknowing public. Skeptic organizations are necessary for explaining to the public. ~ Paraphrase from a video of Ron Lindsay <http://bit.ly/2tA7CPN> <http://bit.ly/1YEIUX5>

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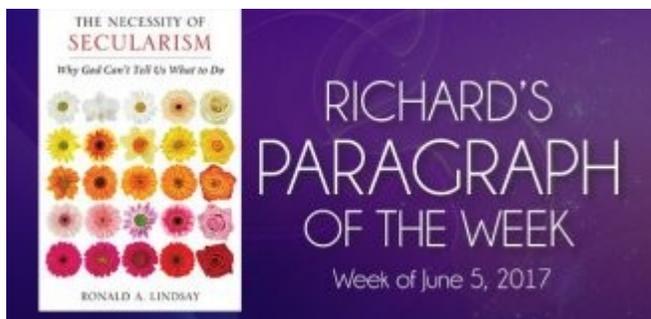
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Can one truly claim to be educated without a broad knowledge of the Humanities? No!



Doubts about religion? *You're one of many.*

In an irrational world, those who stand for reason must stand together.

We are African Americans for Humanism. [Learn more.](#)

African Americans may be the nation's most religious minority, but the churches and religious leaders don't speak for many of us.

Today as in the past, many African Americans question religion and religious institutions. More and more of us stand for reason over faith. Freethought over authority. Critical thinking in place of superstition. Many of us are nonreligious; some are nontheistic.

African Americans for Humanism supports skeptics, doubters, humanists, and atheists in the African American community, provides forums for communication and education, and facilitates coordinated action to achieve shared objectives.

In an irrational world, those who stand for reason must stand together.

African Americans for Humanism is a program of the [Center for Inquiry](#), headquartered in Amherst, NY. It is directed by [Debbie Goddard](#) and an [Advisory Committee](#). For further information, [contact us](#).

CFI's local [Meetup](#) makes it easy to view & *RSVP* to our activities & some affiliated events. The value to us of your joining our Meetup is that we need to know how many folks expect to attend an activity. Some programs are limited in seating; some require ordering books, etc.; some are open only to paid-up CFI members; & some require prepayment.



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



Florida Right Wing Rules Schools

Parents have fought successfully over the years to ban books like the *Harry Potter* series and *Catcher and the Rye* from public schools. Now in Florida, residents could possibly do the same with textbooks about the science behind climate change and evolution.

Last week, Republican Gov. Rick Scott [signed legislation](#) that makes it easier for any Florida resident to object to classroom materials they don't like.

The statute, which took effect on Saturday, [requires](#) district school boards to hire an "unbiased and qualified hearing officer" who could deem things like textbooks, movies, and novels as unsuitable and require they not be used.

Before this legislation, residents could only take their complaints to local school boards.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott, right, on June 28 signed legislation that requires school boards to hire an "unbiased hearing officer" who will handle complaints about instructional materials used in local schools.

Proponents of Florida's measure have argued that state-approved textbooks are "too liberal," and that some books in school libraries are inappropriate.

In [a Feb. 1 affidavit](#) to lawmakers, one supporter asked to remove books about Cuba from elementary school libraries, complaining that they "glorified" Fidel Castro's Communist ideals. As a certified teacher, she said she's witnessed "children being taught that Global Warming is a reality." Yet when "parents question these theories, they are ignored," she wrote.

Another woman lamented in an affidavit that evolution is "presented as fact," when she believes it's fiction.

Teachers, scientists, and free speech advocates who oppose the new statute have said they're worried the measure will allow school districts to shape curricula around people's beliefs — not the mainstream scientific consensus.

"School boards will become inundated with demands that certain books be outright banned and that schools must discontinue using textbooks that don't mesh with a vocal minority's ideological views," said Brandon Haught, a high school science teacher and member of Florida Citizens for Science, the [Orlando Sentinel reported](#) in April.

Protestors march around downtown Denver at the People's Climate March on April 29, 2017.

IMAGE: MARC PISCOTTY/GETTY IMAGES

Florida's statute is one of 13 measures proposed this year that the National Council for Science Education considers to be "anti-science," the *Washington Post* recently [noted](#).

Alabama and Indiana, for instance, both adopted non-binding resolutions to [promote the "academic freedom"](#) of science teachers in the state's public schools. Educators are encouraged to "teach the controversy" around "biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning."

Legislators and parents aren't the only ones putting pressure on public school teachers.

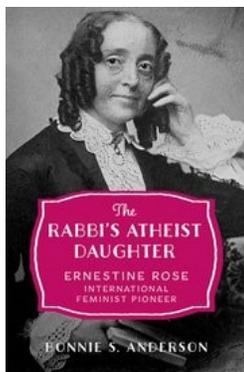
This spring, the Heartland Institute, a libertarian think tank, mailed books and DVDs to 25,000 U.S. science teachers that speak falsely about a "disagreement" among scientists on global warming. The campaign ultimately aims to reach more than 200,000 K-12 science teachers, PBS's [Frontline reported](#) in March.

Haught, from Florida Citizens for Science, urged residents to "stand up for sound science education."

"The fight will now be won or lost where you live," he wrote in a [June 26 blog post](#).

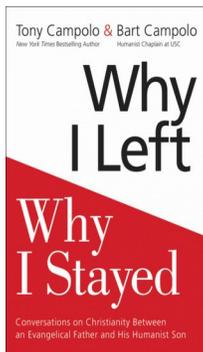
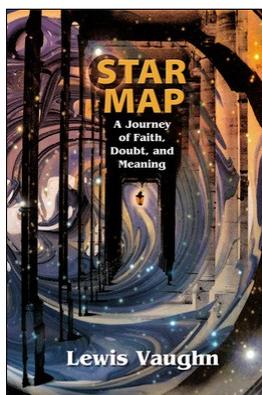
Recommended Reading

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



Recovers firebrand Ernestine Rose's career as a feminist, freethinker, and abolitionist to the pantheon of 19th century history. Written by a senior scholar of women's history, stresses the role of an atheist in the heavily Christian reform movements.

"*Star Map* is one of the most searing accounts I have read of the abiding harm that a literalist, fundamentalist upbringing can inflict. ... This book deserves to be widely read ... It's hard to imagine a more poignant reminder that extremism in religion can be profoundly damaging—but also that the handicaps imposed by such a childhood can nonetheless be overcome. Even if—as in Lewis Vaughn's case—a few of the scars never fade." -- *Free Inquiry*



Over a Thanksgiving dinner, fifty-year-old Bart Campolo announced to his Evangelical pastor father, Tony Campolo, that after a lifetime immersed in the Christian faith, he no longer believed in God. The revelation shook the Campolo family dynamic and forced father and son to each reconsider his own personal journey of faith—dual spiritual investigations into theology, faith, and Humanism that eventually led Bart and Tony back to one another.



We've all read them: letters to the editor that make us pound our heads on the table. Fanatical diatribes that claim America for conservative Christianity and demonize secularists. But have you done anything about them? Stop shouting at your innocent spouse. Instead, sharpen your quill and join the battle.

The Letters to the Editor section is the current equivalent of the Roman forum. In a modern community, this page is where people turn to learn what those around them are thinking. So speak up! Remember, though, few atheists have the luxury of being open about their views. Whatever you say will likely be taken as if you were speaking for every freethinker on the planet. Take great care how you represent us.

The Matt Cooper

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 Believe In God.
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know
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. Demon Haunted World
57. Being Right Is Not Enough
58. Loser Takes All
59. Taking Back Politics
60. What Happened in Ohio?
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62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible
63. **12 Vol Complete Works**
64. On Religious Liberty
65. The God Makers
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**

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* Essential works

Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought goodies: Pins, jewelry, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc. <http://evolvefish.com/> To access more Freethought history & perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prahl's Freethought Library. Contact fpahl@verizon.net

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



Tracy Thomas, Chair - Al Hann, Pres, Judy Adkins, VP

Join members of our Tampa chapter at our Headquarters / Recording Studio Building at 5103 So. Westshore, Tampa

See [AoF Meetup](#) for details Website: <http://aof.ngo>

AoF plans to continue its long tradition of broadcasting in September when a new series of AM and FM broadcasts are now being planned. If you believe you have expertise in any area of freethought, atheism, science, or any other interest you feel would serve to enlighten the public, let us know. Also if you would like to see particular ideas or subjects discussed in this format, we would be most interested to hear from you. You may contact us through our website above.

AoF is a comfortable & safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, & make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus. For many people, atheism represents the most focused & powerful criticism of the philosophical world-view with which most of us were raised. It is liberating for the same reason it attracts the enmity of those who are committed to the closed & changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP



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/>

Be a Celebrant!

Do you like to help people celebrate milestones in their life? Do you want to help someone when they lose a friend or family member?

Consider becoming a celebrant. An atheist celebrant.

An Atheist Celebrant?

An Atheist celebrant officiates and assists with a secular or civil ceremony, such as a wedding, a service to welcome new family members, coming-of-age rituals, end of life services, etc. Celebrants work with people to create a secular experience intended to be uniquely personalized, deep and loving, based on the person's personal philosophy, and not the celebrant's. A celebrant may have suggestions on how to approach the occasion, and if appropriate, the venue and setting, music, and textual sharing's.

Why do we have rituals?

According to [The Journal of Cultural Anthropology](https://culanth.org/curated_collections/4-ritual) (https://culanth.org/curated_collections/4-ritual)

"Ritual is arguably a universal feature of human social existence: just as one cannot envision a society without language or exchange, one would be equally hard-pressed to imagine a society without ritual. And while the word "ritual" commonly brings to mind exoticized images of primitive others diligently engaged in mystical activities, one can find rituals, both sacred and secular, throughout "modern" society:...."

According to the UNESCO webpage "[Social practices, rituals and festive events](https://ich.unesco.org/en/social-practices-rituals-and-00055)" (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/social-practices-rituals-and-00055>):

Rituals "... are significant because they reaffirm the identity of those who practice them as a group or a society and, whether performed in public or private, are closely linked to important events...."

Want to be an Atheist Celebrant?

If you are interested in becoming an AOF celebrant, see: celebrants.aof.ngo or contact us at 478-227-5263.

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com

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

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



AMERICAN
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www.atheists.org

Bonus! Total eclipse of the sun.

Be there with friends.

Tampa Bay Thinkers



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

August 14th

Topic: Is Capitalism Obsolete? Are we heading towards universal income? See our Meetup site:

www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

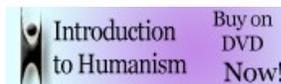
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a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



Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize & 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 & Manatee/Sarasota area outings every month.

Throughout the year we host parties like Darwin Day in February, World Humanist Day in June, Freethought Day at Disney in October & Carl Sagan Day in November. Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).

See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.



The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers



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

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

Co-Organizer:

MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB

On the web at: www.maaf.info



USF Freethinkers

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

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

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



Tampa Bay Technology Center & Thinkers Salon



We repair our member's computers - Free!

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Check out *Thinker's Salon* a forum for serious social & scientific ideas & issues.

Find us at:
www.tampa-bay.org

Humanistic Judaism



of Tampa Bay

Meets monthly,
usually at a local library
Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W Bearss Ave, Tampa, FL 33618

Visit their [Meetup](#)
or [email to Jeff Lipkes](#)



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

Bill Norsworthy, is our Florida representative. Please sign up [here](#).

Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, & appreciated!

See page 7 for more information on our Secular Coalition activities around the National day of Reason. SC wants **you** to represent the voice of thousands of the people of reason in the halls of power.

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



ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay

In the wake of the 2016 outbreak of toxic algae in the St. Lucie River and Estuary and along Florida's Treasure Coast, the ACLU of Florida was asked by members in the region and several environmental organizations to investigate the state's record of transparency with regard to the dissemination of information about the potential grave danger to the public health posed by the algae flow. Specific concern was expressed about the state's performance in delivering needed information evenly to all citizens in affected areas, and whether the state understates scientific evidence of dangers to public health.

The following report was researched with the help of local residents, scientists, media sources, and those state employees who cooperated with an ACLU of Florida investigator.

[DOWNLOAD REPORT](#)



Genuine human progress consists largely in undoing the damage done to the world by inhumane biblical ideas and actions. Some of this progress is, ironically, initiated by progressive religionists. The very best example of this is the eradication of chattel slavery. The Bible condones life-long slavery for the captives of the Hebrew people. In Luke 12:47-48, Ephesians, chapter 6 and numerous other passages, slavery is condoned. Abolitionists "corrected the Bible" and managed to kick slavery to the curb with human thought and human action. Yet, the Bible still condones slavery. As Twain pointed out, "The slavery text remained; the practice changed, that was all..." Christianity's main slogan could be "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, lead 'em, and hog the glory." Indeed, this had been the case with the persecution of alleged witches. The Bible had taught that believers should not suffer a witch to live. However, rational and empathetic human beings finally discovered that persecuting and killing alleged witches is downright inhumane. However, as Twain noted again, "The witch text remains; only the practice has changed." Sadly, the text and the practice remain in some parts of the world. In nations such as Malawi, Ghana, Nigeria and other African nations, alleged witches are still being persecuted and killed in the name of God. As long as the text and the practice continue to influence the thoughts and actions of highly irrational and superstitious believers, the problem will persist.

Norm Allen Jr.



UU Humanists of Clearwater

Usually every 3rd Sunday at 12:30

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

For more information, E-mail us [here](#).



A Humanist Discussion group in East Tampa !

UU Humanists of Tampa

Public Discussion, 2nd Wednesday eve from 7 -9 PM, & on the 4th Sunday Morning 9:45 - 10:45.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
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Tampa Bay CoR

TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON

Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: groups that promote serious secular discussion & activity about important issues in our area & beyond.

Substantive & exciting new activities are now offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

Every year we sponsor events as Darwin Day in February, Solstice day in December, and other activities all year long.

We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason & its director, **Jason Heap**.

You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected in Tampa Bay & across the nation with such messages as “You can be good without God. Millions are!”

TBCoR is an alliance of 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
Or see, <http://tampabaycor.net/>
Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>



The Secular Academy

The Secular Academy has new online classes at SecularActivism.Org

Dr. Richard Carrier's one-month course on [Moral Reasoning from Theory to Practice](#) is offered during June – \$69.

Dr. Jon Mills' new one-month course on [Inventing God: The Psychology of Belief](#) is offered during June – \$69.

Classes at SecularActivism.Org are accessible online 24/7, so you can participate at any hour of the day when you have some time. There's nothing 'live' to be missed, and you aren't using video, just text-based forums. Instructors respond individually to all questions and love extended conversations.

-- The Secular Academy is a project of Partners for Secular Activism, a 501c3 nonprofit educational organization started in 2014 by John Shook, PhD. For several years Dr. Shook worked with the founder of secular humanism, Paul Kurtz, to develop online education for the growing secular community. Take a look at his new book on [science's epic victory over religious ignorance](#).

Know someone interested in earning a master's degree? The 'Science and the Public' program from the University at Buffalo, NY, is a part-time and completely online Masters of Education degree. This is America's only entirely online program for the secular promotion of science and science-based policy - gse.buffalo.edu/online/science



October 20th of this year will mark the beginning of the statewide Florida Humanist Conference in Orlando. Your TB-CoR will be an exhibitor there and we expect to see a goodly contingent from our area. The event features an long list of outstanding and exciting speakers, and three (3) comedy acts! For more information and to register for the conference, go to: www.freeflo.org/

Register by **July 31** for Early Bird prices.



Toni Van Pelt,
ISHV



Bill Norsworthy,
UUCH



Mark Brandt,
UUCH



Chris Brown,
MAF



Jenn Hancock,
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,
CFI, TBS



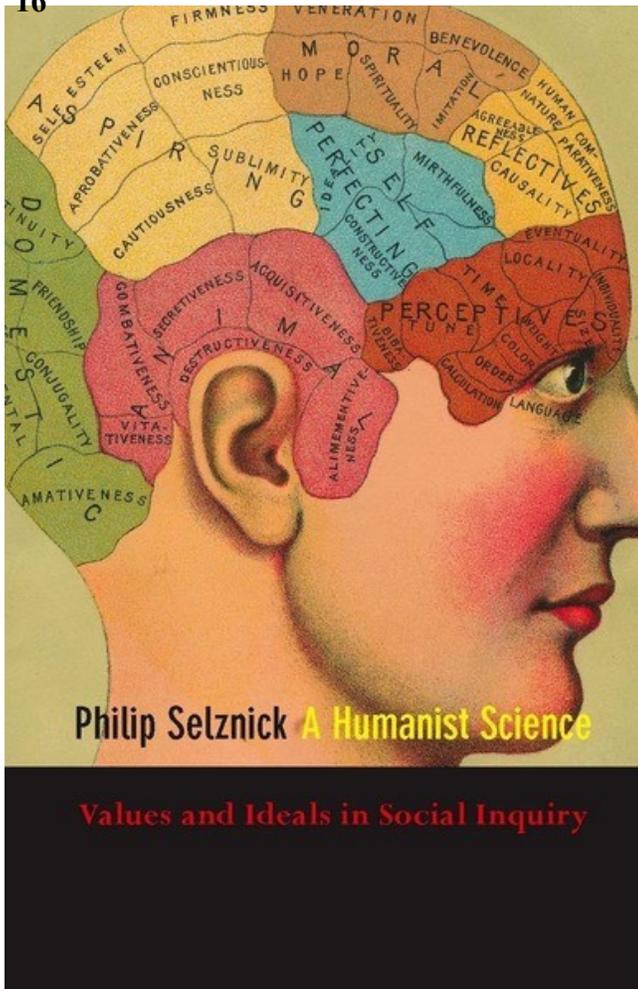
Jim Peterson,
HSS, TBPC



Al Hann
AoF

TBCoR Leadership Team 2017

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net



Providing a capstone to Philip Selznick's influential body of scholarly work, *A Humanist Science* insightfully brings to light the value-centered nature of the social sciences. The work clearly challenges the supposed separation of fact and value, and argues that human values belong to the world of fact and are the source of the ideals that govern social and political institutions. By demonstrating the close connection between the social sciences and the humanities, Selznick reveals how the methods of the social sciences highlight and enrich the study of such values as well-being, prosperity, rationality, and self-government.

The book moves from the animating principles that make up the humanist tradition to the values that are central to the social sciences, analyzing the core teachings of these disciplines with respect to the moral issues at stake. Throughout the work, Selznick calls attention to the conditions that affect the emergence, realization, and decline of human values, offering a valuable resource for scholars and students of law, sociology, political science, and philosophy.

Order book [Here](#)



Did you know that at least forty-six colleges and universities in the United States include a course on humanist philosophy? Many universities offer humanism as part of a general introduction to religion or philosophy, including Harvard, George Mason, Brandeis, the University of Chicago, Gonzaga, Middle Tennessee State, University of North Dakota, Wesleyan, Vanderbilt, and more. Others have specifically designed courses on humanism, atheism, and secularism in reaction to the growing number of nonbelievers in the United States.

The Kochhar Humanist Education Center of the American Humanist Association is putting together a resource on humanist courses on college campuses. If you know of a college or graduate-level course that includes the study of humanism, please contact Bob Bhaerman at:

bbhaerman@americanhumanist.org

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc.

(SPAC), has been meeting continuously since 1927. It was incorporated in 1979 as a nonprofit, tax deductible organization.

For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members & the public. For additional information send your emails to:

spaceaminer@gmail.com

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



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 & Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League](#) & [Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news & astronomical information to our membership & to the public.

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 & curious about how to experience it, or a seasoned veteran looking for an active club to spend observation time with. We invite you to attend a meetings as our honored guest.

Monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd floor of MOSI in the Science Works Theater, & take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Meetings are free & open to the public.

Details & RSVP:

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

Giordano Bruno (1548-1600) Scientist & Humanist Hero

He was an Italian Dominican Friar, mathematician, philosopher, poet and cosmologist. He proposed that the [stars](#) were just distant suns surrounded by a solar system like our own, and that some of these planets might foster life. The Inquisition took a decidedly dim view of his unusual ideas, and burned him alive in 1600.



Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – August 2017 Calendar



This is produced from preliminary information. *Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when & where* We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.
Your **RSVP** is requested, & 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 Freethought Social	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to RSVP: http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	             
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup	
1st Saturday, 2 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists	
TBA – various activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
TBA - numerous events—this semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary! Page 11.	
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	RSVP is required. Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members.</i> http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
4th Saturday, 10:30 AM;	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to <i>10 paid-up CFI members.</i> RSVP is required. Must have read the book under discussion to attend. http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers	
4 th Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	
2 nd Saturday plus various other times/venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings & other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	

2018 Freethought Cruise With Annie Laurie Gaylor & Dan Barker
Sign up now. <https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/> Lvs. Port Canaveral March 3-7, 2018

