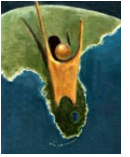




Vol. 6 No. 2, February 2017 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

Freethought News



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Darwin Day 2017

The Acceleration of Evolutionary Change in Human Society

Jeff Lipkes was born and raised in Los Angeles and educated at U.C. Berkeley and Princeton. He's taught at Northwestern, Penn State, Hollins College, and University of South Florida. Lipkes is the author of *Politics, Religion, and Classical Economy in Britain and Rehearsals: The German Army in Belgium, August 1914*. He translated Henri Pirenne's *Belgium and the First World War* and has edited a collection of the letters of British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey, *Dear Katharine Courageous*. As Josh Michaels, he's published a novel, *Outlaws*, and edited a selection of the aphorisms of Mignon McLaughlin, *Aperçus*. Lipkes has also published a number of articles in scholarly and non-scholarly journals, and a dozen short stories. He's the organizer of Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay, an affiliate of the *Society for Humanistic Judaism*.



JEFF LIPKES

Human Evolution: Where We've been-Where are we going?

There is no question that after the migration out of Africa around 50,000 years ago, population groups of homo sapiens continued to evolve, as attested to by distinctive DNA changes, as well as obvious physiological differences. But did cultural practices result in artificial selection for certain phenotypic traits by some groups much more recently? The question is obviously controversial. This lecture will explore the theses of some economists and anthropologists (historians have ignored the subject) concerning the Jews and the English. Why did the Jews become traders and then moneylenders in medieval Europe, the middle class of early modern Poland, and then, after Emancipation, were so successful in certain fields in Europe and America? Why did the English pioneer the industrial revolution and then create an empire that, at its height, ruled over more than quarter of the world's population and a quarter of its land mass? The answers a few courageous scholars have provided are intriguing, and worth a close look.

Dr. Lipkes talk is sponsored by the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason and Clearwater UU Humanists and is free. It will be at 12:30 on Sunday, February 19th. Venue: the UU Octagon at 2470 Nursery RD in Clearwater



Tom Flynn's previously announced talk for CFI will be rescheduled.

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.suncoasthumanist.com



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

Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL

Our February meeting has been excepted in favor of the Coalition of Reason's Darwin Day program.

Our March program on the first Saturday will continue as always at the Dunedin Library. See below for the topic.

Celebrating

30 Years
of
Humanism

In west central Florida

**This February
19th, come to our
Annual Darwin Day
Program.**

**Sponsored by the
Tampa Bay
Coalition of
Reason**

**See page 1 for
details.**



**In March... World
in Danger**
The Sierra Club
Perspective.



Tampa Bay Harvest

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

Be with us at

**12:30 PM
February 19th**

**At
the UUC Octagon at
2470 Nursery Rd. in
Clearwater**

**To hear Jeff Lipkes
on
Human Evolution:
Our Darwin Day 2017
Program - Free.**

Volume 30 No. 2 February, 2017

**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

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



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?

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 on hiatus!

Is there no one amongst you who would like to coordinate this 20 year old tradition?

What this is about is simply to find a nice quiet, reasonably priced restaurant where 12 to 22 humanists can sit down to enjoy a lengthy discussion and a fine meal with good friends,... before tearing into subtle disagreements over philosophical and political issues of many kinds, just to show they can really do it.

We need a coordinator for this!... Maybe you? Write to: jim@suncoasthumanist.com

This is a high status, prestigious position within the organization that will cause you to swell up with pride (and possibly indigestion) in being a part of the smooth running mechanism that is organized humanism. (hmmmpf...#@%)

Laugh Lines Okey Dokey... Here's more 02-17

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ... but it's still on my list.
3. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

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
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Jim Peterson, President
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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](#)

January 21st, 11 AM

Discussion 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/>

JP



Member, TBCoR,
Hum Society, & AHA
affiliate.

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
9654 W. Linebaugh Ave. PMB #110
Tampa, FL 33626
E-mail: 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 <http://tampabaycor.net/>



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.

Please sign up [here](#).

Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, and 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 and officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots 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

*If we attend continually
and promptly to the little
that we can do, we shall
ere long be surprised
to find how little
remains that
we cannot do.
~ Samuel Butler*



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

Life implies death—one's own mortality above all. Everything has limits. Wisdom resides in the understanding that we are subject to forces we cannot control, and that we must respect and accommodate ourselves to those forces. If we want to have language, farming, cities, and energy, then we must make a deliberate cultural effort to maintain an attitude of individual and collective humility. In practical terms, that means keeping the size of our global population low enough so that it can be supported long-term without eroding natural systems, managing consumption so that resources are not depleted and non-biodegradable wastes do not accumulate, and maintaining checks on wealth inequality.

Obviously, we haven't been doing these things very well, especially in recent decades. The power of fossil fuels fed our collective megalomania. Like people in previous civilizations, we went out on a limb—but modern energy and technology enabled us to go much further than any humans had before. Still, as all civilizations do, ours has reached the point of diminishing returns, of over-reach. Before us lies the senescence and death of a way of living and of seeing the world. Perhaps the new president's qualities of character are emblematic of these final stages of cultural disintegration.

In the days to come, there will be plenty of opportunities for resistance, protest, and, one hopes, celebration. Inauguration Day 2017 is a turning point; for me, it seems a perfect occasion for a walk in the woods.

by **Richard Heinberg**

Post Carbon Institute
613 4th Street, Ste 208
Santa Rosa, California 95404

See the Humanist Society's environmental website at:

www.tampabaypostcarbon.com

It's Time to Stand Up for the Climate—

and for Civilization!



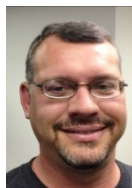
Toni Van Pelt,
ISHV



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 2016

Editorial E-Mail: tbcor@metrodirect.net

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

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

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](#)



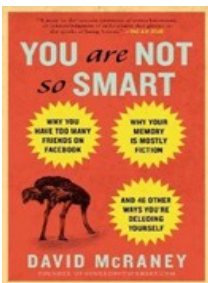
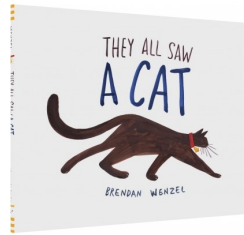
Recommended Reading

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



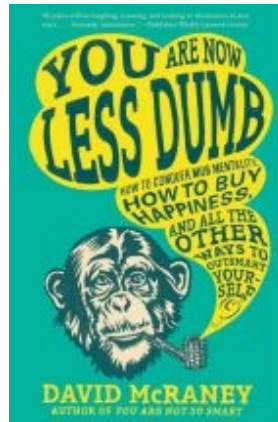
In 1984, having given up his religious beliefs for atheism, Flynn stopped celebrating Christmas because “it was no longer the birthday of anyone I knew.” Flynn urges unbelievers to be more visible by sitting out the winter holidays. He argues that Christmas is too narrowly Anglophile to continue as the compulsory winter holiday of an increasingly diverse America. “Yes, Virginia, believing in the Santa Claus myth is harmful to young people’s mental development.”

The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws . . . in this celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Wenzel shows us the many lives of one cat, & how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see?

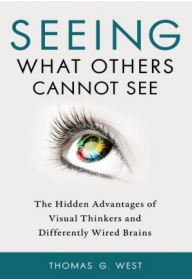


In this international bestseller, discover the wonderful ways you delude yourself every day and enjoy a healthy dose of humility. With each new subject you will start to see how unaware of how unaware you are and how it keeps you sane. “It turns out we’re much more irrational than most of us think, so give yourself every advantage you can and read this book.” – Alexis Ohanian

Go deeper into understanding just how deluded you really are & learn how you can use that knowledge to be more humble, better connected, and less dumb in the sequel to the internationally bestselling *You Are Not So Smart*. “Now, thanks to David McRaney’s mind-blowing book, we can finally see the scientific roots of that problem. Anybody still self-aware enough to wonder why society now worships willful stupidity should read this book.” – David Sirota



This is an inspiring book that not only documents the achievements of people with various learning differences, but reveals their great potential—especially in a new digital age where traditional clerical and academic skills are less and less important while an ability to think in pictures and to understand patterns is rapidly increasing in value in the global economic marketplace.



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 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. The God Delusion Richard Dawkins
11. All That We Share Jay Wallgasper
12. Sex, Time, and Power Leonard Shlain
13. Sex at Dawn C. Ryan, & C. Jetha
14. What liberal Media Eric Alderman
15. The End of Faith Sam Harris
16. Plan B Lester Brown
17. The Portable Atheist Christopher Hitchens
18. Open Society George Soros
19. Non Believer Nation David Niose
20. God on Trial Peter Irons
21. Natural Experiments of History Diamond-Robinson
22. The Missionary Position Christopher Hitchens
23. Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff
24. A brief History of Time Stephen Hawking
25. Breaking the Spell Daniel Dennett
26. The Philosophy of Humanism Corliss Lamont
27. The Quotable Atheist Jack Huberman
28. 50 Reasons People Give for Believing 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. Why People Believe Weird Things Michael Shermer
45. The World is Curved David Snick
46. The Snow Ball Warren Buffett
47. The Moral Landscape Sam Harris
48. How We Believe Michael Shermer
49. Full House Steven Jay Gould
50. The Origins of Political Order Francis Fukuyama
51. Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov
52. Autobiography of Mark Twain Harriet Smith, Editor
53. Science Friction Michael Shermer
54. Genius James Gleick
55. Inevitable Illusions Piatrelli & Palmarini
56. Sex & God Darryl Ray
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. Database Systems (Complete Ver.) Kifer, Bernstein, & Lewis
64. Reluctant Database Administrators Josef Finsel
65. Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov
66. Inevitable Illusions M. Piattelli-Palmarini
67. Ain't Nobody's business If You Do Peter McWilliams
69. Bonk Mary Roach
70. What Money Can't Buy Michael J. Sandel
71. Financial Shenanigans Howard Shilit
72. Sex & God Darrel Ray, ED.D
73. Best American Non required Reading Dave 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. Thoughts of a Freethinker **New!** Kaye

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

Atheists of Florida, Inc.



Tracy Thomas, Chair - Judy M. Adkins, President

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

See [AoF Meetup](http://aof.meetup.com) for details 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 current activities for this month, see our comprehensive web site:

<http://aof.ngo>

St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: 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"

"Florida Student and School Personnel Religious Liberties Act." House Bill 303 and Senate Bill 436

Members of Atheists of Florida support free speech and religious freedom for everyone, students included. However, after having read these bills, we are concerned about the direct conflict this has with U.S. Code 4071, "Denial of equal access prohibited", commonly referred to as the Equal Access Act (EAA), as well as the establishment clause of the U.S. constitution and the Florida Constitution, Article 1 Section 3.

While much of HB 303 and SB 436 agrees with the EAA, the involvement of employees with a student group is in direct conflict. EAA states: "employees or agents of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;". These bills, in Paragraph 4(a)1. (b)1. states "A school district may not prevent school personnel from participating in religious activities on school grounds that are initiated by students at reasonable times before or after the school day if such activities are voluntary and do not conflict with the responsibilities or assignments of such personnel." There is no avoiding the inherently sectarian nature of religious expression. All of it is grounded in differently evolved religious, national, and social traditions. Each religion proclaims its own inerrancy and superiority to all the others. This cannot help but to create disunity, dissension, and strife as it has so often in the past.

Since HB 303 and SB 436 applies to all schools in a district, how do you propose we protect younger students from being unduly influenced by a teacher? When a scientologist, Satanist, or someone from a cult or "unpopular" religion encourages students to start a club, how does your bill address the potential for abuse of the trust students have placed in that authority figure? It seems all too easy for an employee to "take over" a student organization, whether intentionally or not, simply because of the relationship that students have with a teacher or staff person. Adults are often viewed as guides in many aspects of life. Those adults moved by religious feelings may often be disposed to dispense the "superior" values of their religion in a fully beneficent way in their own view. If the adult in question is a teacher, is this not going to pressure students in their class to feel required to participate in that teacher's openly professed religion, lest they fear being "penalized" by the teacher for not being part of his/her group?

The social values and individual virtues promoted by the traditional secular framework of our schools seem wholly adequate to inculcate the necessary attributes to become a valued and worthwhile citizen. The founders of our country seemed to appreciate the fact that religion is mostly a matter of private discretion, and ought not to be the subject of government selection. The current federal law seems quite adequate in giving students the rights addressed by these bills, without complicating the matter with employee involvement.

Please call your representatives to ask them to vote against these bills as they are written.

These bills were introduced by Representative Kimberly Daniels (D) and Senator Dennis Baxley (R).

Judy Adkins
President, Atheists of Florida

Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008.
Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa,
every 3rd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.
February 13th.

**Topic: Gender Roles: Are they
changing or stuck in a rut?**

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

Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

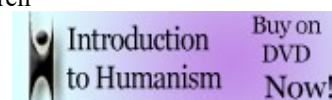
Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a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

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

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)

MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:

**MacDill Atheists & Secular
Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB**

On the web at: www.maaf.info



**"Can You Still Be
Jewish If You Don't
Believe In God?":**

A Talk by Paul Golin

Paul Golin is the new Executive Director of the Society for Humanistic Judaism. He's the former head of Big Tent Judaism, and is the co-author of two books on interfaith marriage. Join Paul for dinner at a nearby restaurant after the lecture.

Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay

Jeff Lipkes, Leader

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 6:30 PM

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W Bearss Ave, Tampa, FL 33618
RSVP at [Meetup.com](https://www.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



A Global March for Equality, Reason, and Freedom



It's impossible to say just how many people took part in the Women's Marches in Washington and around the world, but many estimates by academics and experts easily place the number in the millions, such that over 1% of the U.S. population took to the streets on January 21.

The Center for Inquiry was proud to be one of the [dozens of partner organizations](#) supporting the march. In Washington, CFI-DC coordinated with the Secular Coalition for America to join the hundreds of thousands who gathered there, and members of other CFI branches took part in their cities as well. Even in places where there was no "official" CFI presence, our friends and volunteers were there.



And rightly so, for among the issues raised by demonstrators were those that CFI has always championed: women's rights, LGBTQ equality, defending and supporting science and its findings, the advancement of reason and evidence-based thinking, the rejection of conspiracy theories and "alternative facts," opposition to religious imposition into government and people's lives, and of course the freedom of expression.

CFI-Indiana Executive Director **Reba Boyd** Wooden addressed the crowd at the march in Indianapolis, and she spoke out strongly for the values we fight for: Our tax money should go to support public schools which serve everyone not to private for-profit schools or to religious schools that promote a particular religion. Public schools should be neutral on the subject of religion so that students of all religions and no religion feel welcome. ... We will stand up for equality for all, freedom for individuals to practice the religion of their choice including the freedom to not practice any religion, freedom of expression in speech, press, peaceful assembly, and public policy based on the best science available.

See much more online at: http://www.centerforinquiry.net/news/cause_effect_73/

Feel better! Please 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!

JOIN NOW

Building a Wall that Really Matters



While on the campaign trail, President Trump promised to repeal the Johnson Amendment, which prohibits churches from participating in campaign politics. Now, a bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives to do just that, which would allow churches to inject unaccountable “dark money” into our elections and endorse candidates from the pulpit, all while maintaining their preferential tax status.

We cannot afford to sit back while these attacks on our democracy occur. That’s why the American Humanist Association and our 501c4 lobbying organization, the Center for Freethought Equality, will be hosting a series of congressional briefings on Capitol Hill focusing on protecting the Johnson Amendment and the separation of church and state.

Can you take a moment right now to encourage your Representative, Senators, and their staffers to attend the AHA’s Johnson Amendment briefings on January 31?

With so much happening in the world, it’s easy to feel that the problems are too large and far away for us to have a positive impact. But with your help, we can make sure that Congress doesn’t damage the wall of separation between church and state.

[Contact your Representative and Senators right now and ask that their office is present at our crucially important briefing on the Johnson Amendment.](#) Sending an email takes just a minute, and making a phone call can make a big difference.

Thank you for taking the time to stand up for the separation of church and state.

Sincerely,
Roy Speckhardt

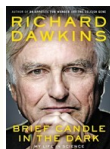
Executive Director, American Humanist Assoc.



Richard Dawkins’ NEWEST book!

Exclusive autographed copy for only \$36.95 plus S&H. Few are left.

Go to: www.evolutetampa.com



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.

The Institute for Science and Human Values
Inspired by Empathy and Creativity, guided by Reason Paul Kurtz, Founder • Jonathan Kurtz, Chairman



What would Count as Evidence against Theism or Biblical Inerrancy?

This year (2017), for the first time, Bob Jones University closed in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. The University’s long history of anti-Black racism is well-known, so this must be considered as at least a small step forward. (They did not even accept Blacks to the school until the 1970s and banned interracial dating until at least the year 2000.) However, when religionists change their views, it never occurs to most of them that the changes they embrace mean that they – and their God – were wrong. Yet they profess to embrace a perfect, omniscient God that never makes mistakes. What’s up with that?

The usual rationalization is that they misinterpreted Scripture, but finally got it right. Others maintain that God finally touched their hearts and changed them for the better. They never seem to notice that God does not change their hearts and minds until after the rest of society has moved ahead. This, of course, means that they are simply coming late to the party. It makes their God look like a slacker.

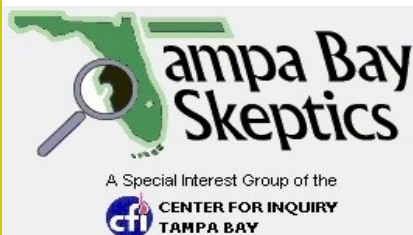
Norm Allen Jr. has spoken on numerous radio and television shows including National Public Radio. He has worked to strengthen 72 humanist groups in 30 African nations. His writings have appeared in numerous books and encyclopedias, including VOICES FOR EVOLUTION, published by the National Center for Science Education. He is the editor of two ground-breaking books; *AFRICAN-AMERICAN HUMANISM: AN ANTHOLOGY*, and *THE BLACK HUMANIST EXPERIENCE*.



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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!](#)

Humanities & Hops

Meet up, grab a beer, and join the discussion!

What's New with Religion These Days?
Tuesday, January 31 at 7 PM

Southern Brewing & Winemaking: 4500 N. Nebraska Ave.

Jim Strange, Religious Studies

Strange asserts that crises in faith are not confined to the 20th or 21st centuries and that there is a continued separation between "religion" and "spirituality" due to advancing secularism around the world.



John Napora, Anthropology

Napora draws on numerous faiths to discuss the relevance of religion today in terms of charity, toleration, and compassion.



James Cavendish, Sociology

Cavendish studies religious affiliation, belief, and practice in the U.S. to describe the rise of the religiously unaffiliated and what this reveals about the meaning of religion in people's lives today.



**Raffle
giveaways!**

Free and open to the public.

Starting at 6:30, the first 35 people receive free meal tickets to the on-site food truck.

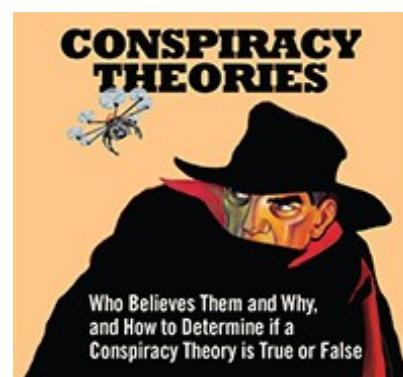
If reasonable accommodations for disability are required, please call 813-974-3657.



HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Challenge. Create. Connect.
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA



[Download the free PDF](#)



Who believes them? Why? How can you tell if they're true?

What is a conspiracy theory, why do people believe in them, and why do they tend to proliferate? Why does belief in one conspiracy correlate to belief in others? What are the triggers of belief, and how does group identity factor into it? How can one tell the difference between a true conspiracy and a false one?

[Download the free PDF](#)

Humanities Institute returns for Spring 2017!

New topic: What's New with Religion These Days?

New faculty presenters: Jim Strange (Religious Studies), John Napora (Anthropology), James Cavendish (Sociology)

New food truck: Opieo Pizza

Same great location: Southern Brewing and Winemaking
4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa 33603



The Netherlands picks up the fallen banner of Women's health rights as the U. S. retreats into a Swamp of Religious Tribalism

The world has responded with fear and outrage to many of President Donald Trump's repressive actions since taking office, and the Dutch government immediately announced plans to counter one: the [reinstatement](#) of the "global gag rule" which cuts off U.S. funding to any NGO around the world that mentions abortions.

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Lilianne Ploumen announced the government's plan for a new international abortion fund on Tuesday.

"Banning abortions does not result in fewer abortions," said Ploumen, [according to](#) *teleSUR*. "It leads to more irresponsible practices in back rooms and more maternal deaths. We must not let this happen."

The Independent [adds](#):

[Ploumen] told colleagues: "This has far-reaching consequences. First of all, for all those women who have to make, if they want to have a child, a choice, but also for their husbands and children and society as a whole."

[...]She also quoted figures from Marie Stopes International, one group which would lose funding under the initiative, suggesting up to 14 women a day could die as a result of the gag.

The gag rule, also known as the "[Mexico City Policy](#)," was instituted by President Ronald Reagan and kept in place by subsequent Republican presidents, while it was repealed by both Democrats, as *Common Dreams* [noted](#).

Planned Parenthood also [explained](#) the dire results to come from Trump's executive order. "When in place, the global gag rule (also known as the Mexico City Policy) has had enormous and harmful impacts on women's lives," the group wrote:

- In many communities, the most experienced providers of women's healthcare were cut off—sometimes, the only provider of any essential healthcare in their community and clinics were shut down.
- It also stifled the free speech of doctors and of advocates in the country and weakened civil society.
- Multiple studies have come out looking at the impact of the global gag rule and they have found that the primary impact is lost access to contraceptives, and in turn, increased rates of abortion—which are primarily unsafe.

"Ploumen wants to launch a new fund that could be supported by governments, businesses, and social organizations to 'compensate this financial setback as much as possible,'" [reports](#) the *Associated Press*.

Trump's reinstatement of the gag rule has been met with strong resistance stateside as well, and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced legislation Tuesday that would repeal the rule for good, as *Common Dreams* [reported](#).



ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay

Since the election, National ACLU went from 700,000 Facebook fans to more than a million. Thank you to all of our supporters, new and old.

We would not be able to do the work we have ahead without you.

Will you join with us? <https://tampa.aclufl.org/>

We're on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aclufltampa/>

[Column: Defending rights in Florida after this election](#)

Change our nation's libel laws to go after critics in the media. The day after the election, the ACLU of Florida staff met first to come to terms with our collective shock at the civil liberties challenges we are now surely facing, then to begin planning ... [Tampa Bay Times](#)



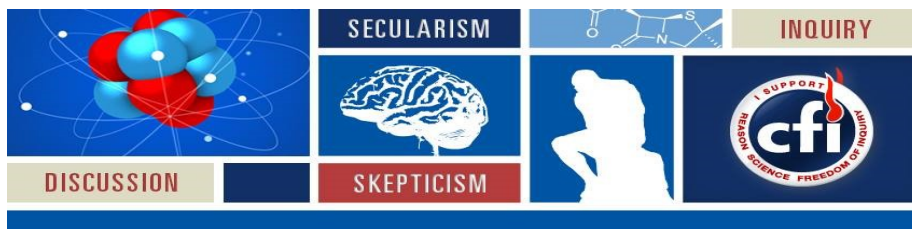
Clearwater, Florida

Clearwater UU Humanists

Usually on the
3Rd Sunday at 12:30

We are a group of
Unitarian Universalists

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



University of South Florida Humanities Institute

Tuesday, Jan. 31 Southern Brewing and Wine
making 4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, FL.
33603
7:00pm

***Humanities and Hops: What's up with
religion these days?***

For more engaging speakers and socials:
<http://www.humanities-institute.usf.edu/>

[Select lectures](#) are available on YouTube.

A big part of the American Dream is dying * By Andy Kiersz

One of the most important parts of the American Dream is the hope that your children will be better off than you are. Unfortunately, that is becoming less common. The likelihood that children at age 30 had a higher inflation-adjusted income than their parents did when they were the same age has been dropping over the last several decades, according to a recent study by Stanford economist Raj Chetty and his team at the Equality of Opportunity Project cited by Jeff Gundlach in his presentation released earlier this month.

By combining data from the Census Bureau with anonymized tax record information, Chetty and his team were able to approximate the likelihood that children would earn more than their parents for different levels of parental income, and show how that likelihood changed over the decades.

As the chart shows, around 90% of children born in 1940 across the entire income distribution earned more than their parents did at age 30. That percentage dropped each decade, with only about 50% of children born in 1980 earning more than their parents. See the chart here: <http://read.bi/2k5NFc3>.

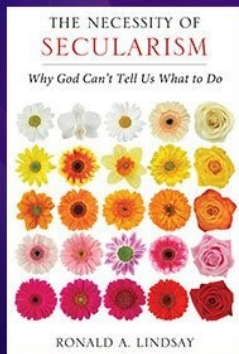


Beyond atheism.
Beyond agnosticism.
Secular Humanism

Our local [Meetup](#) makes it easy to view and RSVP to our activities and 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; and some require prepayment.

RICHARD'S PARAGRAPH OF THE WEEK

Week of January 16, 2017



"Let's take stock for a moment. We entered into this discussion of revelation because it is through revelation that we are supposedly made aware of God's commands. If God is to have any direct role to play with respect to morality, either as moral dictator or moral adviser, we would need to be able to receive instructions from him. Our analysis of revelation has established that God effectively has no way to communicate his commands to us. Even if he were to transmit a command through a prophet, we would have no way of confirming this was a divine command. But the situation is even worse than this. What purported revelations we do have from God are inconsistent." — **Ron Lindsay**, *The Necessity of Secularism*, pg 93



Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science

CFI and the Dawkins Foundation have now merged, and are now able to offer a greater diversity of programs than ever.

So much more to read [HERE](http://bit.ly/2dggynJ). <http://bit.ly/2dggynJ>

Great Humanist Quotes

The human mind is greater than any book. The mind sits in judgment on every book. If there be truth in the book, we take it; if error, we discard it. Why refer this to the Bible? In this country, the Bible has been used to support slavery and capital punishment; while in the old countries, it has been quoted to sustain all manner of tyranny and persecution. All reforms are anti-Bible. ~ **William Lloyd Garrison**

In his celebrated book, "On Liberty", the English philosopher John Stuart Mill argued that silencing an opinion is "a peculiar evil." If the opinion is right, we are robbed of the "opportunity of exchanging error for truth"; and if it's wrong, we are deprived of a deeper understanding of the truth in its "collision with error." If we know only our own side of the argument, we hardly know even that: it becomes stale, soon learned by rote, untested, a pallid and lifeless truth. ~ **Carl Sagan**

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – January 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 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 Not this week! See Page 2 for details	
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—next Spring	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 10 paid-up CFI members. RSVP is required. http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup <i>Must have read the book under discussion to attend</i>	
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	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY AREA– Humanist Families	RSVP here: Family outings and other activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	



2017 Freethought Cruise with Hemant Mehta

<https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/> March 16-20, 2017