

Freethought News

Vol. 10 No. 4 April 2021

Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

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It's Easter and the Atheists are Rising

American Atheists is proud to present one of the most diverse and compelling line-ups of speakers, activists, community leaders, academics, and artists you'll see at any atheist event in America. As always, we're committed to bringing brand new stories you've never heard to our stage!

With a weekend-long kick off event followed by a full month of programming, you don't want to miss Atheist April.

Register Now!

We are excited to offer a new online event platform that includes a ton of fun features. In addition to our great lineup of speakers and workshops, we will be hosting small roundtable discussions throughout the weekend on topics suggested by you.

You will be able to check out our national partners and affiliate groups from across the country in our Exposition Area. Meet virtually with old friends you see every year, and make new connections from across the country.

Humanist Society joins with Atheists of Florida to work on bringing expanded science reach to schools

Thanks to a grant from the American Humanist Association, a new joint cooperative project is now in the works for some lucky and promising Florida science students.

This will involve providing science related "kits" to underserved students in certain area schools, and if the program is adequately supported, to the state, generally.

Science is viewed by many thinkers as an area of life that has had the greatest effect in changing the nature of human society. With it's emphasis on rational methodology and the discipline of logic and reason, science has enabled us to harness the power of the atom and view the fate of galaxies.

It is our story writ large across the cosmos and yet with all the intimacy of our biological roots. The program, came to the attention of **Judy Adkins**, head of the Atheists of Florida group, who in collaboration with Humanists of the Suncoast created the proposal that can become a new resource in the creation of fine young minds.

Watch for more on this.



NB. Until further notice, following best-practices and official medical recommendations, **all group face to face gatherings are postponed** due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will let you know here when we're go for "Normal."

Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason
Web site—Jim Peterson
Editors—Jim Peterson & Rick O'Keefe

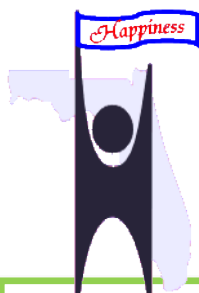
Back & current issues online at:
<http://www.tampabaycor.net>

Special Projects—Mark Brandt & Bill Norsworthy

See our event websites at:
<http://bit.ly/2vUJoE1>

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the editors, TBCoR, or its member organizations.

Anywhere in this newsletter, **CLICK** on an image or **blue text** for a link.



The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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



APRIL 20, 2021 | 7:00PM - 8:00PM
EASTERN TIME | WATCH THIS VIRTUAL TALK ON ZOOM

Critical Minds | Intro to Reproductive Justice and Intersectionality

Using a human rights analysis, facilitators will show how reproductive justice differs from the pro-choice/anti-abortion framework. [READ MORE](#)

APRIL 21, 2021 | 3:00PM - 4:30PM
EASTERN TIME | WATCH THIS VIRTUAL TALK ON ZOOM

Speaking of Humanism | Community Impact of Humanist Schools in Uganda

Learn about the Isaac Newton High School, which we believe is the first successful humanist school in the world.



Humanism
is a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism or other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good.



Racism, Environmental degradation, the oppressions of sex, religion, gender, class, nationality, ignorance, poverty, exploitation, hatred, war, indifference to suffering....

Remember, it is your duty to solve at least one of these problems before May 6th. You can even get a head start on it now if you wish.

Let us know how it turns out!

Vol. XXXIV No. 4 April, 2021



The Humanist Society has maintained an enlightened presence on the Florida Suncoast sine 1987.

Please Join or renew
Humanist Society of the Suncoast

Annual Dues

- _Regular -\$25
- _Reg. Couple -\$30.
- _Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin above)
- _Life -\$200. (Inc. Pin)
- _Life Couple -\$250 (Pins)
- _Associate -\$10



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

If you have questions concerning your dues or status, contact our treasurer, Scott Wilson scott33761@yahoo.com

If new, please give info below; if renewing just indicate your name & any changes from our previous information Thanks!

*Name: Address –if new : City, State, Zip
Phone, E-mail: (Privacy respected)*

*Send check made out to:
"Scott Wilson"*

*Memo line: "Humanist Society Dues"
(501c3, tax deductible)*

*Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA
6814 Charlotte Harbor Way
Tampa FL 33625*



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

What is the Humanist Way?

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

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

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

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

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

Church News

*Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."

*Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

*Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

*"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

*Next Sunday is the family hayride and bonfire at the Fowlers'. Bring your own hot dogs and guns. Friends are welcome! Everyone come for a fun time.

*The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

*The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"

*Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

*The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."

*Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

*Don't let worry kill you - let the Church help.

*Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

*A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

*Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

*The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

*Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

*For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

*Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

*Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.

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

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~*~*~*~*~*~

Jim Peterson, Editor
E-Mail us at:

Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist,
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Or call:

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Linda@cheercounseling.com

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

Or, Joel Schmidt
www.floatoncounseling.com
321-604-7637





Celebrating achievements of humanists around the globe. Humanism is a philosophical movement attributed to those who reject religious and supernatural ideologies.

A humanist lives their life according to a set of values that prioritize scientific reasoning and empathy for other human beings, the charity [Humanists UK](#) explains on its website.

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

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



**FOUNDATION
BEYOND BELIEF**
humanism at work

In 2014, the American Humanist Association and Foundation Beyond Belief announced the merger of their respective charitable programs Humanist Charities and Humanist Crisis Response to encourage humanist giving. [Humanist Disaster Recovery](#), this new joint project of the AHA and FBB, exists to provide financial support to secular organizations working locally to meet the needs of recovering survivors.

Recent recovery giving campaigns have helped relief efforts with The Texas snow disaster, Hurricanes Harvey & Irma, famine in East Africa, flooding in Louisiana, earthquakes in Ecuador & Nepal, and much more.

Humanist Quotes

Science itself is a humanist in the sense that it doesn't discriminate between human beings, but it is also morally neutral. It is no better or worse than the ethos for which it is used.
Max Lerner

Scientific and humanist approaches are not competitive but supportive, and both are ultimately necessary.

Robert C. Wood

In science it often happens that scientists say, 'You know that's a really good argument; my position is mistaken,' and then they would actually change their minds and you never hear that old view from them again. They really do it. It doesn't happen as often as it should, because scientists are human and change is sometimes painful. But it happens every day. I cannot recall the last time something like that happened in politics or religion. (1987) -- Carl Sagan...

The dedicated doctor knows that he must be both scientist and humanitarian; his most agonizing decisions lie in the field of human relations.
-David B. Allman

I am an atheist, out and out. It took me a long time to say it. I've been an atheist for years and years, but somehow I felt it was intellectually unrespectable to say one was an atheist, because it assumed knowledge that one didn't have. Somehow, it was better to say one was a humanist or an agnostic. I finally decided that I'm a creature of emotion as well as of reason. Emotionally, I am an atheist. I don't have the evidence to prove that God doesn't exist, but I so strongly suspect he doesn't that I don't want to waste my time.

Issac Asimov

This week in Escher



Click here



An autonomous project of the Humanist Society.
Affiliate of the [Post Carbon Institute](#)

Power: *LIMITS AND PROSPECTS FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL* by **Richard Heinberg**

Homo sapiens is Earth's unequivocal champion at gaining and wielding power. We shoot probes to other planets and plumb the depths of the seas. Each year our species extracts and processes 100 billion tons of natural resources that end up as consumer products and building materials. In order to obtain these resources, we move more soil and rock than are displaced by all of nature's forces combined—including wind, rivers, rain, volcanoes, and earthquakes. We do so much mining, transporting, manufacturing, and waste dumping that, purely as a side effect, we're also significantly and perilously altering the chemistry of our planet's atmosphere and oceans. That's power.

Moreover, we have found a multitude of ways to use our outsized human power to subjugate and control one another. We've generated so much economic inequality that a mere seven individuals now enjoy as much wealth as the poorer half of humanity—roughly four billion people. At the same time, we've developed weapons so lethal that the survival of our species depends on our never using them. We influence one another's behavior with debt, laws, prisons, taxes, regulations, borders, facial recognition technology, property rights, advertising, hiring and firing, propaganda, internet and social media algorithms, and a thousand other means.

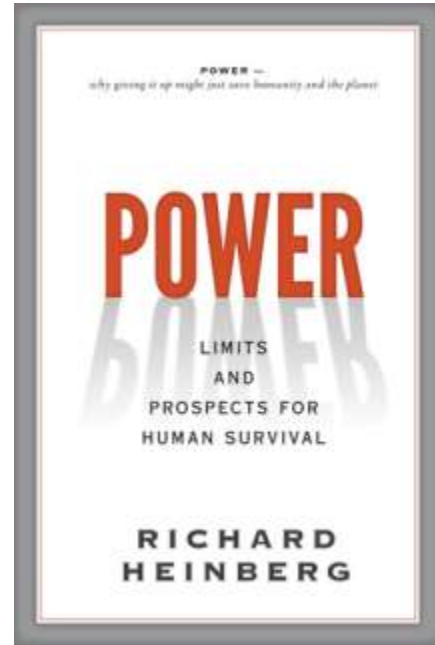
Power is good; we can't do anything without it. But it's clear that we are creating some serious environmental and social dilemmas for ourselves. Is it possible that we humans, or at least some of us, now enjoy too much of a good thing? Or is our problem merely that we don't understand power very well, and therefore tend to misuse it?

These questions have bugged me my entire adult life. A few years ago, I decided to undertake a systematic search for answers. I started by focusing on the seemingly simple query: what *is* power?

I spent months doing a literature search (it took so long because a lot has been written), but came away frustrated. Ask a physicist and she'll tell you that power is "the rate of energy transfer," measurable in watts. But that's not how

most of us use the word. When we speak of the power of a dictator or a billionaire, we're not concerned about their ability to convey a lot of energy quickly. The kind of power that people wield over one another is usually defined as "the possession of control, authority, or influence over others." How are these two meanings related—or are they? Are we merely using one word to refer to two or more completely different things?

Gradually, through research and thought, I have come to see the many and varied meanings of *power* as inextricably linked. The link is evolution.



Humanity's amazing powers have roots in the plant and animal kingdoms. All sorts of organisms communicate, move, sense, process information intelligently, and exclude others of their kind from access to resources; some even build complex societies with division of labor. We humans have amplified these powers using an increasing array of dazzling technologies—as well as language, a key facilitator of nearly everything we do. For example, over millions of years, insects, birds, and bats independently evolved the power of flight. However, in just the last century, using airplanes, we humans developed the ability to fly faster than a diving peregrine, and higher than an Asian goose soaring above the Himalayas. Using technology guided with numbers and words, we can detect trace chemicals that even a bear's nose can't sniff out, and lift burdens that would crush an elephant.

The ability to do anything whatsoever starts with energy. Controlling the transfer of energy is basic to life; it's the essential business of every cell. In fact, gram-for-gram, the average organism is 10,000 times as powerful as the Sun. That seems unbelievable until you do the math. The Sun is very

massive; dividing luminosity by mass yields 0.0002 milliwatts of power per gram. A human, eating an average diet and converting food energy into heat and work, averages 2 milliwatts per gram—and some nonhuman cells can do better than that. Of course, life's power is derivative, mostly originating with sunlight. But living things have unquestionably gotten very good at gathering and managing energy.

Continued on Page [6](#)



Power... (from page 5)

Energy is the currency of power, and controlling its transfer enables organisms to do things. Indeed, one key definition of power is, “the ability to do something.” We speak of the power of movement, the power of perception, the power of thought, and the power of imagination. While these abilities are very different from one another, they all ultimately depend on energy. *Social power* could be defined as “the ability to *get other people* to do something”—whether by incentive, threat, or inspiration. It’s this kind of power that we humans tend to fret over much of the time, and, while it sometimes seems disconnected from physical demonstrations of power, it’s really just another ability made possible by clever energy management. Social power is the ability to influence how others manage *their* energy.

Ways of expressing power have evolved—first through the relatively slow process of biological evolution, and more recently in humans via speedier cultural evolution using language and technology. As a result, we appear (to ourselves, at least) to be the tip of evolution’s arrow. But, to mention just the two most extreme options, is that arrow aimed toward godhood—in which science and technology develop to the point where we attain immortality and virtual omnipotence? Or toward extinction—in which we deplete Earth’s resources and fight one another to the death over what’s left?

Today, as the planet warms and our oceans are being emptied of life, the latter outcome looks disturbingly likely. Whether we extinguish ourselves and most other higher organisms on this planet, or live to enjoy the benefits of power for many millennia to come will likely depend on whether we find appropriate ways to limit our power in the present so as to exert it over a longer period of time. If we are to survive, we must reduce our carbon emissions and other forms of pollution, leave more living space for other species, eliminate nuclear weapons, and greatly reduce economic inequality. Conventional thinking typically proposes to exert even more power through technology to fix the problems caused by our overuse of power in the past, but this merely clouds the issue, delaying a genuine response while problems continue to accumulate and worsen.

Self-limitation of power is, again, a strategy of energy management rooted in evolution. In nature, failure to control or limit power can result in disaster. Each organism maintains homeostasis—a moment-by-moment power balancing act. Ecosystems are shaped by power balances among predators and prey. And some species specialize on rare habitats or food sources, thereby limiting their own numbers. Sometimes individuals sacrifice themselves for the good of the whole—like exploding ants (*Colobopsis saundersi*, found in Malaysia and Brunei), which produce a toxic fluid in their abdomens, so that, when the colony is attacked, some of the workers can blow themselves up, releasing the toxin and killing the invaders.

For more, see article on the [Resilience](#) site.
Or buy the book when released - soon.



post carbon institute



Footsteps could Light up Homes with Power-Generating Wooden Floors

By [Prachi Patel](#) *Footsteps could light up homes with power-generating wooden floors*

A new method to generate [electricity from wood](#) could power a building’s lights and displays by harvesting energy from the footfalls of visitors. The simple, low-cost, eco-friendly process reported in the journal [Science Advances](#) uses fungus to rot wood and make it springy, so it can produce power when squeezed.

Wood, one of the oldest building materials used by humans, is still valuable for construction given its low-cost and sustainability. It has also been known for decades to be piezoelectric: it generates electric power when mechanically deformed.

But because natural wood is pretty rigid and cannot be compressed much, it has a very small piezoelectric power output. So a [team of researchers](#) led by Ingo Burgert of ETH Zürich and Javier Ribera at Swiss federal laboratory Empa chemically modified the wood to make it elastic, which boosts the piezoelectric power output by 55 times.

The process involves [removing lignin](#), one of the three main components of wood. [Lignin](#) is a natural polymer that holds the other two components, the carbohydrates cellulose and hemicellulose, together to give wood its strength and rigidity.

Researchers have removed lignin before to turn wood into a Styrofoam-like white material and to make it transparent. But the techniques they have used involve harsh chemicals.

The new work involves a more gentle technique. The researchers use a white rot fungus to deliberately rot a piece of balsa wood. The fungus decomposes the lignin and the hemicellulose in the wood, reducing its weight by almost half after about six weeks.

A dice-sized cube of the spongy wood produced a voltage of 0.87V, enough power for a small sensor, when squished repeatedly 500 times. To demonstrate practical use in future building applications, the researchers connected nine of these cubes together and sandwiched them between two pieces of thin wood veneer. By repeatedly pressing the piece by hand, the researchers could light up a LED lightbulb.

This study shows how renewable and sustainably processed materials could be used to design energy-efficient buildings “thanks to the ability to produce their own electricity through various indoor human activities,” the researchers write.

Source: Jianguo Sun et al. Enhanced mechanical energy conversion with selectively decayed wood. *Science Advances*, 2021.

Atheists of Florida

Inc.



For our Atheists helping the Homeless project -

For all meetings: bring, if you can, small bars of unused soap, small bottles of shampoo, heavy duty socks, any kind of personal care items, or money (for bulk purchase of these items).

Ed Golly, Chair - Judy Adkins, Exec. Dir.
See **AoF Meetup** for details Website: <http://aof.ngo>

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



Be sure to come on in for AoF's regular Sunday evening Zoom sessions starting at 5:00 PM. See our listings below, or on the TB-CoR Meetup for topics, For linking information, see our notices on the Coalition of Reason Meetup page, or on www.aof.ngo.

Date	Guest	Event
4/4/2021	<i>American Atheist Convention</i>	Click here to get more info on the conference - We won't meet this week
4/11/2021	Mike MacMillan	Skepti-sketch

Starting April 2nd,

for a mere \$25 you can attend the:

American Atheist National Virtual Convention

Visit our AoF virtual booth

American Atheists VIRTUAL National Convention

Do you know what your legislature Is up to?

AOF submitted a short survey on **religious freedom** to candidates for the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate, and the US House of Representatives. We are posting the responses on our website as they are received. You can visit the information at <https://www.atheistsofflorida.org/2020-candidates>. (NOTA BENE: We did this through email, so only those candidates for whom we could find an email address are included.)



JMA

Always Vigilant

Public school prayer events are generally billed as being student-organized in order to *appear* constitutional.

But in reality, school staff are often actively involved, even to the extent that they're the ones organizing the event.

To stop this unconstitutional Christian proselytizing, someone needs to expose the adult organizers. That's where we come in!

Let us know of any church-state violation you may run across - restrictions, prayers, bible readings, etc. We'll take it from there. Thanks, www.aof.ngo

Coming soon...

[www.Freethought.news](http://www.freethought.news)

A new web service to the entire community providing an aggregate of events around the nation and world, significant to people who care deeply about freedom. It will be updated continuously. Let us know how you like it.

For over 27 years, Atheists of Florida Inc. has attempted to provide much needed information about religion and the alternatives to religion which have proved to be so liberating for so many of us.

We invite you to explore the many written and audio video presentations from our library.

The radio/TV broadcasts are on extended hiatus for now. However, previous programs, most with discussions of timeless interest, are available **on the internet at:** www.youtube.com/atheistforum.



For now, tune in to the **Voice of Reason, Thursday at 10am on WTAN radio** See [page 13!](#) The voice is a private effort led by Ed Golly, who along with Joe Rhinehardt and guests supply fresh insights on the world we face.

Contact us: info@atheistsoffloridainc.org



Stop the anti-sex ed bill

SB 410 will deny thousands of young Floridians the health info they need to be safe.



A bill equating sexuality education with pornography that creates new barriers for Florida students to receive this critical educational guidance is moving in the Florida Senate. Providing young people with the information they need to make responsible decisions about their sexual health is critical to reducing unintended teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

Contact key members of Senate Criminal Justice Committee today to urge their opposition to Senate Bill 410 on their agenda tomorrow, Tuesday, March 30, at 9:00am. **Tell them "SB 410 would create an additional barrier to sex-ed and would likely lead to fewer young people in Florida receiving the sex education they need at a critical point in their lives."**

Leaving a voicemail is okay!

- **Senator Jeff Brandes** (R-St. Petersburg) 850-487-5024
- **Senator Dennis Baxley** (R-Lady Lake) 850-487-5012
- **Senator Jim Boyd** (R-Bradenton) 850-487-5021
- **Senator George Gainer** (R-Panama City) 850-487-5002
- **Senator Keith Perry** (R-Gainesville) 850-487-5008

[And/or send them an email asking them to stop this bill.](#)

We want our young people to benefit from what sex education promotes: healthy, responsible and mutually protective relationships that have been proven to help young people avoid unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted disease.

But SB 410 creates an additional barrier to young people getting the sex education they need. It would require students to get written permission from their parents before accessing any lessons on sexual health (parents already can opt out). Passing this legislation would decrease the number of young people in Florida able to receive sex ed at a critical point in their lives. ♂♀

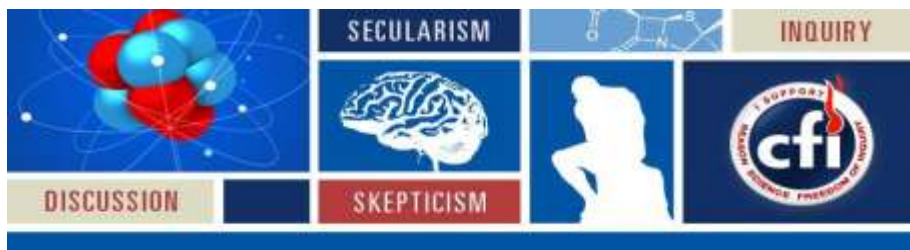
PROGRESS FLORIDA



The ACPC participates in **Secular Week of Action** each year in a variety of ways. You can find all our service events on [Meetup](#) and pledge to take individual action at the [Secular Week of Action .website](#)

It's been a while since you've heard from us this way, I know. (We're looking for volunteer support to maintain this newsletter!) We've had a busy start to the year. Already, we've served over 1,000 meals to folks experiencing homelessness as well as some folks living on the edge of homelessness. We launched our second Adopt-a-Highway project, a 2 mile section of Highway 17 in Haines City. We're all slowly returning to some semblance of normal as more and more people get vaccinated. Of course we are still taking all the precautions when we get together to serve the community. I'm looking forward to seeing more of you again soon! Stay safe!

Sarah Ray Co-Founder / Director



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

Created by Paul Kurtz.

The Common Moral Decencies,

What We Share With Others

1. Personal Integrity: telling the truth, being sincere, keeping promises, being honest.
2. Trustworthiness: loyal, dependable, reliable, responsible.
3. Benevolence: goodwill, lack of malice (do not harm other persons; do not kill or rob, inflict injury, be cruel or vengeful); in sexual relations: mutual consent (between adults only); beneficent: sympathetic and compassionate, lend a helping hand, contribute positively to the welfare of others.
4. Fairness: accountability, gratitude, justice (equality), tolerance of others, cooperation, negotiate differences peacefully, without hatred or violence.

The Ethical Decencies,

Our Responsibilities to Ourselves

Autonomy, Intelligence, Self-discipline, Self-respect, Creativity, High motivation, Affirmative attitude, Joie de vivre, Good health, Exuberance

Secular Humanists base their lives on ethics, reason, and enjoying the good life. We live once and do our best to leave the world a better place than we find it. The Center for Inquiry is a transnational nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that encourages evidence-based inquiry into science, pseudoscience, medicine and health, religion, ethics, secularism, and society. The Center provides rational ethical alternatives to the reigning paranormal and religious systems of belief, and develops communities where like-minded individuals can meet and share experiences.



February 18,
2021 ↓

Journal of the American Medical Association: [The Price of Success](#)—How to Evaluate COVID-19 Vaccines When They're Available Outside of Clinical Trials

CNN: As the [WHO investigated coronavirus origins](#) in China, Beijing pushed a conspiracy about the US

NBC News: [Counterfeit N95 masks are flooding the market](#) — here's how to tell if yours is fake

CNN: [US life expectancy dropped](#) a full year in first half of 2020, according to CDC

What A Mathematical Formula Can Teach Us About Coincidence

The Crux By Noson S. Yanofsky, August 10, 2018

... This tension also defines how we engage with our own lives. While we travel through the seemingly random events in our life, we are searching for patterns, and structure. Life is full of “ups and downs.” There are the joys of falling in love, giggling with your child, and feeling a sense of great accomplishment when a hard job is completed. There is also the pain of a crumbling relationship, or the agony of failing at a task after great effort, or the tragedy of the death of a loved one. We try to make sense of all this. We abhor the feeling of total randomness and the idea that we are just following chaotic, habitual laws of physics. We want to know that there is some meaning, purpose, and significance in the world around us. We want a magical story of a life, so we tell ourselves stories.

Read the rest here: <https://bitly.co/5VjB>

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

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The Center for Inquiry (CFI) leads the charge on promoting science, reason, critical thinking, and humanist values.

CFI's vision is a world in which evidence, science, and compassion—rather than superstition, pseudoscience, or prejudice—guide public policy.

[I am publishing this article not as politics, but as a consideration of how we might return to a more normal society, warts and all. ROK]

The Enemy Isn't Republicans. It's Liars.

The case for a broad, fact-based alliance against fabrications. By WILLIAM SALETAN, Jan 24, SLATE

This is part of What We Learned, a series of reflections on the meaning and legacy of the Trump years.

Over the years, I've bounced around the political spectrum. I was liberal in Texas, more conservative in college, and now I'm somewhere in the middle. Through it all, I saw politics as a fight between left and right. I don't see it that way anymore. Donald Trump's presidency has exposed a bigger threat: an all-out attack on the principle that facts must be respected. We used to take that principle for granted; now we must defend it. Politics has become a fight between those who are willing to respect evidence and those who aren't.

I'm not saying Trump's other sins and crimes—the corruption, the bigotry, the treachery, the hundreds of thousands of deaths—don't matter. They certainly do. But those legacies, awful as they are, aren't as crippling as the damage he has done to our capacity for deliberation. On the issues before us—COVID, jobs, infrastructure, immigration, trade, police reform—there are lots of ideas that could unite progressives and conservatives. But without agreement on facts, or at least on a method of distinguishing facts from lies, we lose our ability to agree on policy.

What Trump has brought to the United States is ruthless, relentless, denialist propaganda at a scale we used to see only in dictatorships. He proved that tens of millions of Americans would believe such lies and that thousands would violently attack our own government. President Joe Biden, in his inaugural address, recognized this menace. "We face an attack on democracy and on truth," said Biden. The challenge, he observed, wasn't just ordinary political spin, but allegations that were wholly "manufactured." Each of us, said Biden, "has a duty ... to defend the truth and to defeat the lies."

Progressives and conservatives have always quarreled about what's true. But to make those debates productive, and to correct our country's mistakes—failed projects, naïve policies, bad wars—we need a common standard for judging truth. That standard can't be the Bible or identity politics. It has to be the standard we apply in daily life: evidence. If you say the election was stolen, you have to prove it in court. If you accuse a police officer of murder, your story has to withstand investigation.

That's how science works. While politicians stage stupid, interminable fights over wearing masks, scientists have quickly devised vaccines from genomes posted on the internet. Science has cured diseases, rolled back infant mortality, extended healthy lifespans, broadened access to information, and developed new energy technologies.

Why is science so effective? Because it constantly tests its theories against reality. It seeks out, accepts, and learns from falsification. That's what Vice President Kamala Harris, in remarks last week, said she had learned from her mother, an endocrinologist: "She instilled in me a fundamental belief in the importance of collecting and analyzing data, facts, of forming a hypothesis, and recognizing that it's not a failure to reevaluate that hypothesis when the facts don't add up." In science, discovering you were wrong isn't failure. It's progress.

Scientists take this process of testing and reevaluation for granted. To them, it's common sense. But it's more than that. It's an ethic. No law of nature forces you to test your theories against evidence or to admit, when those theories don't check out, that you were wrong. Scientists concede error, often grudgingly, because their peers demand it. Science has a culture of falsification.

Politics doesn't. When political promises don't pan out—wars turn into quagmires, public schools underperform, or tax cuts fail to pay for themselves—politicians invent excuses. This has always been a problem, but it's getting worse. Trump and his acolytes don't just spin facts; they completely disregard them. They repeat fantastic lies about election fraud, and when they're confronted with contrary evidence, they're not even embarrassed.

If we don't get control of this—if we don't reestablish an ethic of respect for facts—nothing else will be solved. We can't extinguish the virus if tens of millions of Americans insist it's a hoax and refuse to be vaccinated or wear masks. We can't restore public faith in election results and put down insurrectionism if half the population refuses to believe anything the media report. Repairing the consensus that facts must be respected won't settle our debates on spending, education, or criminal justice. But without that consensus, the crisis we're in will get much worse.

If you're not willing to compromise with reasonable people in the other party, you're not appreciating the gravity of the crisis. Four hundred thousand Americans are dead, most of them needlessly. Two-thirds of the House Republican conference, nearly one-third of the entire House, voted to reject the 2020 election results. Thousands of Americans just invaded our own Capitol, some of them looking to hang the vice president or kidnap the speaker of the House. Tens of millions of others believe the lies that inspired the attack.

If you hold Trump and his party responsible for this madness, as I do, it's tempting to write off the whole GOP. The COVID deniers and election conspiracy theorists are overwhelmingly on the right. For the next two years, Democrats will control the presidency, the House, and the Senate. Why not just tell Republicans to go to hell? The answer is that propagandists thrive on polarization. They recruit and derange their followers by dismissing all criticism as partisan. To break their grip on the right half of the country, we need a fact-based alliance that crosses party lines.

That means looking for common ground everywhere. It means supporting Sen. Mitt Romney, Rep. Liz Cheney, and other Republicans when they speak the truth. It means seriously engaging with fact-based journalism at the Dispatch, the Bulwark, National Review, and other publications in the center and on the right. It means distinguishing the sins of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush from the pathologies of Trump and Newt Gingrich. In this fight, we need everyone who's willing to play by the rules of deliberative democracy. So, for at least the next four years, that's my commitment: If you believe in settling disputes by consulting evidence, I'm on your team.

Congratulate me. Thanks to computers and mathematicians, I can put away my slide rule in calculating this tidbit. Since I was born, I have passed 28,124 days from birth date to my March birthday. Or 77 years, Or 924 months. Alternative time units: 28,124 days are converted to these units: 2,429,913,600 seconds (I'm a billionaire), 674,976 hours, 28,124 days, 4017 weeks and 5 days, 7705.21% of a common year (365 days).

Hmm. How much of that time was spent wisely, productively, usefully? How much time did I enjoy snoozing or eating? Telling delightful jokes? Ah well, that's too much for my brain.



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!](#)



[Herbal Remedies Need Real Scrutiny](#)

Originally published in CNN.com

11.23.092009 By David Frum

Did you know that there exists an all-natural remedy for memory loss? Weight gain? Macular degeneration? Prostate enlargement? These products are so successful that clinical testing has already begun! Just listen to the following testimonial from an unidentified person...

As these ads blare at you from your favorite AM radio station, perhaps you wonder: How can this be legal? Since the late 1960s, aspirin makers have been trying to win the right to tell the public that a daily low-dose tablet can help pre-vent heart disease. They have been told no, and no, and no again.

Federal regulators are so nervous about over-selling aspirin's benefits that they have restricted statements about aspirin to the most bland and basic. Yet while the statements about aspirin have to be cushioned in the vaguest generalities, snake oil flim-flam can be huckstered in the most truth-defying way, thanks to a 1994 law coaxed through Congress by the people who make these drugs.

The law bears the long title of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994. It was sponsored in House of Representatives by Rep. Dan Burton, R-Indiana, and in the Senate by Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Dick Durbin, D-Illinois.

The DSHEA law draws a line between synthesized medicines like aspirin and remedies made from herbs, minerals, vitamins and amino acids. This latter group was recategorized as "dietary supplements"—that is, as foods rather than drugs.

"Drugs" are subjected to exacting scientific trial to prove them both safe and also effective. Sellers of dietary supplements are not required to prove that their remedies work. They are not even required to prove them safe—as "foods" they are presumed safe unless shown otherwise. "Drugs" must disclose any risk of side effect. (That's why those erectile dysfunction ads terrify TV audiences with their references to four-hour erections.)

Dietary supplements bear no such burden—which is why St. John's wort can be sold as an anti-depressant, without any mention of the disturbing indications that the herb weakens the effectiveness of birth control pills.

"Drug" advertising must be pre-approved by the Food and Drug Administration, which minutely reviews the ads' accuracy. Dietary supplement advertising is regulated by the Federal Trade Commission.

So long as supplements avoid promises to cure a specific disease, their sellers can say pretty much whatever they want, provided only that they have some kind of supporting evidence on file.

That evidence does not have to meet any kind of scientific test: pretty much any pattern of ink on paper will do the job. I cannot say, "My rosemary-sage-thyme-and-oregano tablets cure AIDS." But if I pay my cousin \$100 to do a few experiments, I can claim, "My tablets boost the immune system—and clinical trials are under way!"

(There is an exception to the permissive rules about advertising natural products: wine. There is substantial evidence that a glass of red wine a day reduces the risk of heart attack. The laws of most states forbid any hint or suggestion that moderate alcohol use might confer health benefits. Still, if you ask the scientists, wine has better grounds to call itself a health food than does, say, echinacea!)

Fifteen years after receiving the favor of Congress, dietary supplements have grown into a \$24 billion a year industry. Most of the products sold by the industry are merely useless.

For those who eat a balanced diet, scientists have found no quantifiable benefit from taking multivitamins. On the other hand, make their own "health choices."

Individual choice certainly sounds like the American way. But the fact is that most of us are not well positioned to make intelligent health choices.

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

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



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

With so much efforts by reactionary legislators to reduce voter participation

Why do many adults refuse to Vote?

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

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

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

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

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

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

or respect her again, despite her Democratic street cred.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommended Reading

Click on the book's image for more info



Despite the dominance of science in today's world, superstitious beliefs - both traditional and new - remain surprisingly popular. A recent survey of adults in the United States found that 33 percent believed that finding a penny was good luck, and 23 percent believed that the number seven was lucky.

This Very Short Introduction explores the nature and surprising history of superstition from antiquity to the present. For two millennia, superstition was a label derisively applied to foreign religions and unacceptable religious practices, and its primary purpose was used to separate groups and assert religious and social authority. After the Enlightenment, the superstition label was still used to define groups, but the new dividing line was between reason and unreason. Today, despite our apparent sophistication and technological advances, superstitious belief and behaviour remain widespread, and highly educated people are not immune. Stuart Vyse takes an exciting look at the varieties of popular superstitious beliefs today and the psychological reasons behind their continued existence, as well as the likely future course of superstition in our increasingly connected world.

For some atheists, it's enough to simply not believe in God. Some people believe, but you don't. And that's OK.

Other atheists, however, find themselves constantly being asked to justify why they don't believe in God, to explain how they can possibly have morals without believing in God, to respond to various arguments that supposedly prove the existence of God, to acknowledge that America was founded as a "Christian" nation, etc. And if you don't have a background in philosophy, formal logic, comparative religions, ancient history, and various scientific fields, it can be a bit daunting to attempt to respond to questions and assertions like these.

Well, fear not! "Common Sense Atheism" is a collection of original essays that address these issues and many others in clear and easy to understand language, with just a dollop of humor to make it all go down smoothly. These essays will help you understand and explain to others why a lack of belief in God really is the only rational choice.

After all, you shouldn't need a PhD to defend your lack of belief.



(B&N has the newest 2013 edition.) Tracing attacks on free speech from Plato's Republic to America's campuses and newsrooms, Jonathan Rauch provides an engaging and provocative attack on those who would limit free thought by restricting free speech. Rauch explores how the system for producing knowledge works in a liberal society, and why it has now become the object of a powerful ideological attack. Moving beyond the First Amendment, he defends the morality, rather than the legality, of an intellectual regime that relies on unfettered and often hurtful criticism. Kindly Inquisitions is a refreshing and vibrant essay, casting a provocative light on the raging debates over political correctness and multiculturalism.

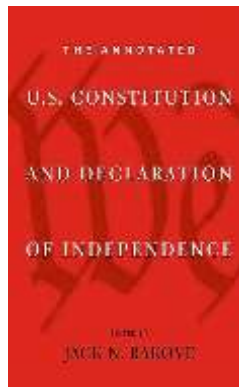
"Fiercely argued. . . . What sets his study apart is his attempt to situate recent developments in a long-range historical perspective and to defend the system of free intellectual inquiry as a socially productive method of channeling prejudice."—Michiko Kakutani, New York Times

"Like no other, this book restates the core of our freedom and demonstrates how great, and disregarded, the peril to that freedom has become."—Joseph Coates, Chicago Tribune

"The philosophical defense of free speech and free thought that seems to have been forgotten. . . . A powerful argument."—Diane Ravitch, Wall Street Journal

Here in a newly annotated edition are the two founding documents of the United States of America: the Declaration of Independence (1776), our great revolutionary manifesto, and the Constitution (1787-88), in which We the People forged a new nation and built the framework for our federal republic. Together with the Bill of Rights and the Civil War amendments, these documents constitute what James Madison called our political scriptures and have come to define us as a people. Now a Pulitzer Prize winning historian serves as a guide to these texts, providing historical contexts and offering interpretive commentary.

In an introductory essay written for the general reader, Jack N. Rakove provides a narrative political account of how these documents came to be written. In his commentary on the Declaration of Independence, Rakove sets the historical context for a fuller appreciation of the important preamble and the list of charges leveled against the Crown. When he glosses the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the subsequent amendments, Rakove once again provides helpful historical background, targets language that has proven particularly difficult or controversial, and cites leading Supreme Court cases. A chronology of events provides a framework for understanding the road to Philadelphia. The general reader will not find a better, more helpful guide to our founding documents than Jack N. Rakove



The Matt Cooper

Humanist Lending Library

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

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5. Denialism Michael Specter
6. The Selfish Gene Richard Dawkins
7. Democracy Incorporated Sheldon Wolin
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Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

Jennifer Hancock started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. We strongly emphasize creative childrearing. You can connect with other families dealing with the same problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly humanist way of life.

Jennifer wrote three books: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, & *The Bully Vaccine*.

Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. Come and do something fun, socialize, enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, a museum, go swimming, & sometimes we leave the kids at home. We organize Tampa & Manatee/Sarasota area outings every month.

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

Thanks, Jennifer Hancock

The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers (MAAF)

The **MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH)** community was created for atheist & secular humanist military personnel stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, their families, & retired military residing in the Tampa Bay 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 freethinking members.

Tampa Bay Thinkers

Be part of the conversation on Monday April 12th online at 7 PM



Topic: *What is the state of education in the US, both K-12 and secondary?*

See our Meetup page for meeting [link](#)
We meet monthly to escape shallow, petty talk and to ponder broad, complex yet practical subjects. We expect members to proffer evidence and use logic in conclusions, but expect all present to keep the meeting FUN for all. We teach, and don't scold. We expect the conversation to move without getting stuck so sometimes, we are forced to "agree to disagree" and move on.

We arrive and part as friends. There are no personal attacks, but each IDEA goes under the microscope. Members agree, others disagree, often with enthusiasm! We have no gates, and no gatekeepers. All are welcome and we tolerate no personal attacks, sarcasm, or even indirect denigration. IDEAS RULE and stand on their own. Finally, we are "thinkers", not "doers". Come, join us, participate, learn, exercise your brain, but mostly HAVE FUN. Learn more [here](#).
Karen Assel, Leader

The Socrates Cafe

A monthly discussion since 2008.

Hosted by **Brent Hardaway**

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/38mveZH>

Join us to discuss :

Does life have meaning?



Saturday, April 17, 2021 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM ET
on Zoom. See [Meetup](#) to receive free link.

Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay welcomes all who are interested in Jewish history, culture, and tradition independent of supernatural explanations. We believe human beings are responsible for their own choices and making the world a better place through science and reason. Join us for discussions, lectures, cultural events,

Ethical Humanism, also called Ethical Culture, is an evolving body of ideas that inspires Ethical Societies. Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity (*Humanist Manifesto III*). For Ethical Humanists, the ultimate religious questions are not about the existence of gods or an afterlife, but rather, "How can we create meaningfulness in this life?" and "How should we treat each other?"

The American Ethical Union was founded in 1877 by Felix Adler in New York, and currently has over 30 member societies.

UU St. Pete Thursday Citizens' Café

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

100 Mirror Lake Dr. N., St. Petersburg



UU Humanists of Clearwater

Usually every 3rd Sunday 12:30 to 1:30 pm, after UU services,



UU Humanists of Tampa

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

11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa



Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.
Sarasota, Florida

HUSBAY is only holding meetings on Wednesdays via Zoom. We don't plan the topics much in advance. People interested in joining us can contact dbhelgager@comcast.net or text to 941-350-0927.



Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

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

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

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

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

TBCoR is an alliance of West Central Florida groups identified with the secular, freethought, Humanist, Atheist movement.

Hear a secular point of view on local radio.

Listen to:
The Voice of Reason
on WTAN Radio Network from Clearwater.



University of South Florida Humanities Institute !

April 19, 2021 // 7pm // Online

USF Alumna

Danzirly is a striking bilingual poetry collection that fiercely examines the nuances of the American Dream for Latinx people in the United States. With a backdrop of stringent immigration policies, the #MeToo movement, and the increasingly tangible threat of climate change, this collection considers multigenerational Latinx identities in a rapidly changing country and world. Through the author's Colombian American lens, the poems explore the intersections of culture, gender, history, and intergenerational grief.

Gloria Muñoz is the author of the chapbook *Your Biome Has Found You*. She holds degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and the University of South Florida, and she teaches at Eckerd College. *Danzirly* is the winner of the 2019 Ambroggio Prize of the Academy of American Poets.

Event is free and open to students, faculty, staff, and the community. Register here: www.humanities-institute.usf.edu



The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc.

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

For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members & the public. Questions? send an email to: spaceexaminer@gmail.com.

Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November & December when it is on the third Friday) at the St. Petersburg College/Gibbs Campus, 6605 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710, at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)



M.A.R.S. – Tampa Astronomy Club

Come to the [Museum Astronomical Resource Society](#), also known as the M.A.R.S. astronomy club. M.A.R.S. is sponsored by the [Museum of Science & Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League & Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news & astronomical information to our membership & to the public. Whether you are new to astronomy & curious about how to experience it, or a seasoned veteran looking for an active club to spend observation time with. We invite you to attend a meetings as our honored guest. Monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd floor of MOSI in the Science Works Theater, & take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Meetings



USF Freethinkers

Freethinkers@USF is a cosmopolitan collective of USF students promoting critical thinking & pluralism through dialogue & reasonable inquiry. Join the official group and vote on upcoming discussions: Contact: <https://orgsync.com/87429/chapter>



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Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – April, 2021 Calendar
 Because of CV-19, all gatherings in-person are cancelled pending further notice.
 See our Meetup site for more/ONLINE:
www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Coalition-of-Reason



CFI in BRANDON – Sunday Freethought Social & Godless Friday Nights	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
TRI-COUNTY – Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup	
West Central Florida & beyond – Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc.	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
DUNEDIN – Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast, see Pg. 2	Details & RSVP http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists Zoom on the 2nd Saturday at 2 PM !	
E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists	
E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi Other events: http://bit.ly/MARS-home	
E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See Web site for full listing of many events & calendar. http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities Locations vary! Page 12.	
N. PINELLAS AREA – CFI Freethought Supper	Not meeting pending resumption of “normal life”, Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI & TBS paid members only + one time guest.</i> http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
New TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & RSVP: No program until life resumes! http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists	
ZOOM – 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/2ljTe9l	
ZOOM – Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively monthly discussions. Know the topic or get laughed at. RSVP here: http://bit.ly/2DVtwCd	
ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates monthly, locations, & details: http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar	
TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Local & national Zooms until Covid is dealt with. Details & RSVP : http://bit.ly/2ljTe9l	
TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	For families only! Family outings & other monthly activities. Details & RSVP: http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN	