

Vol. 3 No. 10 October 2014 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

# The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News

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**HUMANIST CHARITIES**

[Click to connect!](#)

Get Ready for the Annual

## Florida Humanist Conference

October 10th to the 12th in Orlando

Headliner: **Dr. Lawrence Krauss**



Theoretical physicist and cosmologist, Foundation Professor of the School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University. Director of the Origins Project, author of *The Physics of StarTrek* and *A Universe from Nothing*, star of *The Unbelievers*, a documentary film with Richard Dawkins.

*Dr. Krauss*

+ **Dr. Ryan Cragun, Rebecca Hale, Seth Andrews, Stephanie Guttormson, Mandisa Thomas, Keith Lowell Jensen, Daniel Koster and many more.**

For more information, and to get tickets, go to: <http://free-flo.org/>



## Darwin Day 2015

Will be on February 7th 2015 at the Octagon of the UU Clearwater Facility.

Speakers thus far include **Dr. David Lynn**, whose groundbreaking researches into the beginning of life on our planet have propelled him into the front ranks of biological science.

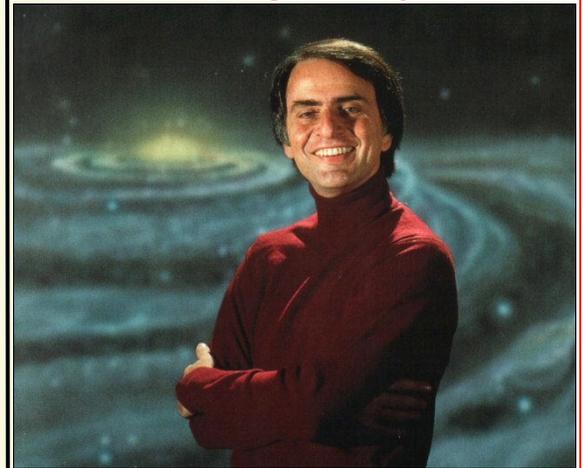
Also, we will hear from **Herb Silverman**, whose notable achievements in South Carolina politics are a source of encouragement and humor.

And, we will be able to announce shortly another person whose great accomplishments bring a greater and more useful understanding of the human condition.

**Remember, this is your chance...  
to evolve!**

Coming November 15th

## Carl Sagan Day



A special occasion at the **Tampa Bay Computer Society**. 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater. See map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>

Dr. Jonathan Smith – Florida Citizens for science  
Dave Dockery – Pres. Doc's Socrates Café  
Dr. Jack Robinson, Emeritus Prof. Astronomy FSU.  
Jim Peterson Pres. TBPC on the Local & Global Environment from perspective of evolving universe  
Members of St Pete and Tampa Astronomy groups  
Playing of excerpts from "Cosmos"

Several Telescopes will be available for viewing: SPARC will have a Solar Telescope.

**Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> ( replaces HSoS & THA meetings)**  
**Starts at 12:30PM** Light snacks available.

Main Sponsor: **CoR**  
Co-sponsor: Tampa Bay Computer Society  
Co-sponsor: Florida Citizens for Science

In December...

Make plans for the **Humanlight/Solstice Potluck Dinner**. Again, this year Freethinkers from around the Bay area will gather to share their best dishes and exquisite company. It will be **December 6th at the Clearwater UU social hall**. More to come...



# Center for Inquiry–Tampa Bay – October, 2014 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. **Organizers of these events will be most grateful to all who have the courtesy to RSVP for those events that require it.**

10-04, Saturday, 2 PM

**CLEARWATER**– Countryside Library on 580 The Humanist Society of the Suncoast & Center for Inquiry

To get the details: Regular meeting - See page 3 <http://www.meetup.com/SuncoastHumanist/>



10-10, 12, 22 Three events

**TAMPA**- See page 6 for details at the Atheists of Florida facility

Details: <http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Florida-Tampabay>



10-12, Sunday, 7 PM

**BRANDON**– Brandon Atheists

Atheists in the Pub. **RSVP.** <http://www.meetup.com/Atheists-of-Brandon/>



10-20, Monday, 7 PM

**NW HILLSBOROUGH / CARROLLWOOD**– Tampa Bay Thinkers

Lively philosophical discussion. For topic, see page 10 RSVP at Web site: <http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/RSVP>



10-18, Saturday, 11 AM

**TAMPA**– North Tampa Library Tampa Humanist Association

Details: see our Meetup <http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Humanist-Association>



10-19, Sunday 5 PM

**CLEARWATER**– Humanist Society of the Suncoast See page 4

Sunday Social Dinner for all members, friends and others interested in conversing with Humanists



10-19, Sunday, 2 PM  
Usually 3rd Sunday of each month

**BRANDON**- at Crispers 11019 Causeway Blvd. Brandon, FL CFI Skeptics & Humanists

Lunch & discussion. Click to **RSVP** <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>



10-25 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:30 AM  
Usually 4th Saturday of each month

**NW HILLSBOROUGH / WESTCHASE**– CFI Readers Book Discussion (Limit 12)

Book lovers meet monthly to discuss books we've read. **RSVP** : <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>



10-19, 6 PM

**N. PINELLAS AREA**- CFI Skeptics/Humanists Supper

**RSVP is required** if you are coming. *Seating is limited to 20!* Click here *before* midnight, Sunday. <http://www.meetup.com/CFI-Tampa-Bay/>



10- 19, Sunday, 12:30 PM

**CLEARWATER**– UU Humanists,

**Regular Sunday meeting.** See page 7 for more information



10-24, usually 4th Friday of each month, plus more events

**ST. PETERSBURG** - Astronomy Club

For dates, location, & and details: <http://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/index.php>



10-04 Saturday, 4 PM

**BRADENTON** - Humanist Families of Tampa

Family outings and other activities. See page 13 [/www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa](http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanistFamiliesTampa) October: Annual Humanists at Disney in Orlando. <https://www.facebook.com/events/188610644635424/>



10-01 see [Web site](#) for six events

**SARASOTA** – Humanists of Sarasota Bay

Many events: Details: Web site <http://sarasota.humanists.net/calendar.html>



10-4 & 10 7:30 PM Friday Evening

**TAMPA** - M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club at MOSI

See **Website** : <http://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/> for all details.

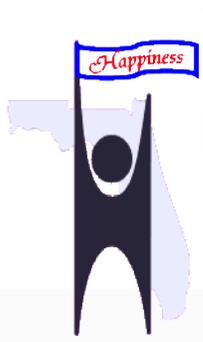
10-15, 22, 27 & 30

**TAMPA**- Humanities Institute at USF

See [website](#) for full listing of many great events and calendar. Many fabulous speakers all in one month! See page 7 for one.

**C.o.R. presents: A Carl Sagan celebration in November, Soltice\Humanlight potluck in December, and Darwin Day next February.**

**"...being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead."** Kurt Vonnegut  
Writer and past president of the American Humanist Association



# The Humanist Society<sup>3</sup> of the Suncoast News

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

October 2014

Volume 22 No. 10 October, 2014

Oct. 4th meeting.



The GreenLight Pinellas ballot referendum will double the bus service, integrate the Pinellas network more closely with Hillsborough, and construct a trolley car / light rail running from Clearwater to the employment center in Gateway / Carillon and down to St. Pete. A PSTA spokesman will make the presentation, and is required to be unbiased. Bring questions about the tax, transit hardware, the bond issue, and economic impact and challenge his knowledge. **Dave Kovar.**

The **library space will not be available to us in November.** For that reason we urge you to consider coming to **Carl Sagan Day on November 15th** at the Tampa Bay Computer Society building in Clearwater. Watch this space for more details next month.

**And, because the annual Freethought Potluck Humanlight /Solstice day/ is on December 6th, our meeting will be moved to that event. Our next meeting at the library will be in January.**



## Dr. Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Will appear at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center in Sarasota on Monday, March 23rd, 2015

- Host of Cosmos, an international, National Geographic and Fox television series
  - Astrophysicist and Director of the Hayden Planetarium
  - AHA Humanist Science Award Recipient 2013
- Sponsored by the Ringling College Library Assoc.



**Food: the first kindness. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings.**

An important measure of this concern is care for the physical well being of others. As reactionaries in congress vote to cut the budget for food stamps and other key supports, there is increasing hunger here in our community. Thanks to *Glenn Paul*, chair. Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance. **We need volunteers!** See a board member. Or write to [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com) Thanx.

Please join us at  
at 2 PM  
at

The Clearwater  
Countryside  
Library 2741  
State Rd. 580  
Clearwater, FL  
33761

Many members  
go to dinner  
afterwards at the  
Dennys on US-19.  
*Alternative venue  
ideas welcome!*

Now is the Time to

~ **Join** ~

## The Humanist Society of the Suncoast. Annual Dues

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



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 dues to:  
**Marios Psomas, Treasurer**  
*Humanist Society of the Suncoast*  
1013 Connecticut Rd  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

## Need Psychological Counseling?

For a secular therapist, click:

**Cognitive Neurosciences Inc. or, The  
Therapist Project, or, Linda Gurvitz, or  
Patricia Walters.**

For Addiction Problems,  
see: two **Life Ring Secular  
Recovery Meetings**

11485 Oakhurst Road  
Waters Edge Club House Largo, Florida



**Tampa Bay Skeptics**  
A Special Interest Group of the  
**CENTER FOR INQUIRY  
TAMPA BAY**



*Humanists work to build a world  
in which happiness is the  
enduring criterion of social 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 monthly social Dinner

# Rumba Island Bar & Grill

1800 Gulf-To-Bay Blvd Clearwater (N.E. Corner of G -T-B & Keene) Sunday, **October 19th, 2014 @ 5:00 P.M.** This restaurant has a variety of early bird specials. Seafood, Barbecue and Caribbean \$9 and up per entree. Reasonably priced beers and wines are available also. \*NOTE: Early birds must be ordered by 5:30PM\*

### RSVP!

Please reserve by Oct 18th with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or by email at [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com)

Hope to see you there; everyone enjoyed the place the last time we were there. Check out [www.rumbagrill.com](http://www.rumbagrill.com)

## Laugh Lines Punography!

10-14

- I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- I know a guy who is addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.
- A cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.

10/14

Thanks to: *Connie Purdum*

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

### Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

**Lois Fries, Secretary**  
**Anita Garcia**  
**Dave Kovar, Vice President**  
**Beth Maxie**  
**Jim Peterson, President**  
**Frank Prah**  
**Marios Psomas, treasurer**  
**Jordan Williams**  
*Emeritus members: Terry Eckstein, Steve Brown, Jon Green, Mark Kligman, Jerry Moore, Mark Winterbottom, Sidney Goetz Dec. Bob Collette, Glenn Paul, Don Acenbrack Dec., Rob Byrch, Dec. Jackie Jordan, Brent Yaciw, Mike Hubbard, Matt Cooper Dec, Jim Butler*  
 ~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

Jim Peterson, Editor

E-Mail us at:

[jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)



The Kochhar Humanist Education Center hopes to impact the level of community activism among chapters and affiliates of the American Humanist Association by providing case studies and citizen action guides; they bring to light issues on minority religions and ethnicities that humanist chapter members may not have considered before. It will also expand existing efforts like Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism and utilize other resources in working to eliminate the pernicious effects of ignorance and discrimination.

## Tampa Humanist Association

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



October 18th

# Everything

you always wanted to know about Separation  
of Church & State ... But were afraid to ask.

We will watch and discuss excerpts of this **film** to get a better grasp of the importance of the often contentious relationship between civil and religious life. Discover why the American constitution elevated this concept as a pillar of our national life, and why it is unique in the world. Many regard it as the single greatest contribution to the advance of human civilization.

Join us for a lively discussion.



Dinner and a Movie  
with  
**Dr. Lawrence Krauss**  
Orlando, FL  
October 11, 2014

Movie: "The Unbelievers"  
starring  
**Lawrence Krauss &  
Richard Dawkins**



FreeFlc2014 Conference  
October 10-12  
[free-flc.org](http://free-flc.org)

## Humanists Support Science

Rep. Rush Holt has reintroduced the Darwin Day resolution, which recognizes February 12th as Darwin Day, commends scientists for improving humanity's quality of life through scientific discovery, and opposes the teaching of creationism.

**Please help us honor Charles Darwin and support science by using the AHA's action alert system to:**

- Send an email to your Representative and ask him or her to support the Darwin Day resolution. We've even written the message for you to make it easy and quick to send.
- Get your Representative's phone number and call to say "I urge you to cosponsor [H. Res. 467](#), also known as the Darwin Day resolution. Creationism is being taught in schools nationwide, and we need Congress to stand up for real science."



Order this important new book now from [Amazon](#)  
By local Humanistic Counselor, **Linda Faulkner**

**Dangerous Wishcraft**, By Linda Faulkner is a must read for anyone who has ever questioned the truth of religious beliefs, explores the dangers of relying on prayer ~wishcraft~ rather than using rational thinking skills, and the often tragic mental, emotional, and physical consequences that can result. Religion, which may have originated as a way to explain the world, has now become an anchor in the fight against scientific knowledge. Modern evangelical religions are attempting to drag the world back into the Dark Ages. This book shines a light, through stories of clients scarred by religion combined with scientific research, on the damage religious fanaticism can inflict on both individual and global levels, and also presents potential strategies for protection from the dangerous practice of wishcraft.

## Humanist Quotes

"Human beings and their actions constitute the advancing front, the surging crest of an ongoing movement that never stops. "

*Corliss Lamont*

## HUMANISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

The need is great. All it takes is about an hour out of a day and the commitment to show up once a week. The feeling of having helped is most gratifying. How can we as Humanists not act to impact a child in the inner city in a positive manner?

YOU can give a child a much-needed hour of personal attention that will encourage reading and just might help them to move forward while improving their self-esteem.

In Hillsborough County, contact: **Debra L. Blossom**,  
Program Manager Training and Volunteer Management  
[debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:debra.blossom@sdhc.k12.fl.us) 813.872-5254

*Gale Barron*

# Florida Atheists



***Atheism sprinting into the future!***

**Chair, Tracy Thomas, President, Judy Adkins**

Join our Tampa chapter on **Sunday, October 12th at our headquarters building. We are planning to put together a video program. See the [AoF Meetup](#) for more information.**

JOIN US - AoF meeting information can be found at our Meetup site and more information about the organization can be found on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#).

**Soon you will be able to subscribe to AoF's news service, keeping you informed of matters of importance to the freethought, secular community.**

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. Look for exciting new programs and internet webcasts (audio & video). Let us know if you wish to participate. We are a resource for those with questions and doubts about the standard religious narrative of life.

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. Because it is such a foundational and wrenching break with the past and because it leads the way in recognizing a broad range of possibilities for both scientific and social progress, atheism is an essential pillar for all other humanist and freethought philosophies. We join our coalition organizations to provide an essential part of the unique spectra of thought and activity that is vital to human progress. From a personal standpoint, we bring a human centered ethic to bear in serving our fellow human beings as they struggle to overcome the delusional psychology of years of religious conditioning. JP

<http://bankofwisdom.com>

**Bank of Wisdom**

*Electronic publishing to make the world better*

## IN MEMORIAM: VICTOR J. STENGER

New York Times–bestselling author leaves a rich intellectual legacy

Prometheus Books is deeply saddened by the sudden and unexpected loss of one of our most prolific and important authors, Victor J. Stenger. This Tuesday (September 9, 2014) marks the publication of his thirteenth Prometheus book, [God and the Multiverse: Humanity's Expanding View of the Cosmos](#), and we can't believe he isn't here to see it off into the world and to engage the public in lively discourse on its topic at personal appearances or on his Huffington Post blog, as he would for any other book.

Jonathan Kurtz, publisher, Prometheus Books, says, "Victor Stenger was a visionary thinker. He had the rare ability to write for the academic reader as well as the layman. He was the ultimate professional and a close friend of Prometheus, with a relationship going back many years. We will miss him greatly."

An adjunct professor of philosophy at the University of Colorado and professor emeritus of physics and astronomy at the University of Hawaii at the time of his death, Victor Stenger was an extraordinary scholar with the unique ability to make dense concepts in science both meaningful and intelligible to the general public while at the same time maintaining their scientific integrity.

In 2007, he achieved New York Times–bestseller status with *God: The Failed Hypothesis*, a book praised by Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris, the prominent "New Atheists" of that time.

Like many skeptics, Stenger valued the need to bring reason and critical thinking to a public desperately searching for understanding and clarity amid the many claims made by religion and the supernatural masquerading as science or insisting that where science has yet to discover answers some mysterious psychic force could fill the void. He took this obligation to the public at large very seriously, dedicating himself to confronting the pseudoscientific, the paranormal, and the supernatural with solid, evidence-based arguments that any careful reader could follow and gain significant insight from.

"The books Victor authored leave a rich intellectual legacy," says Steven L. Mitchell, editor in chief, Prometheus Books. "His works broaden the public's knowledge about science and the thoughtful method it uses to explore claims of all stripes in an objective, rational way that will ultimately lead to answers grounded in the best available evidence rather than baseless assertions, unfounded conjecture, or blind faith."

Victor Stenger will be missed by those of us who had the privilege of knowing him. But we who cherish critical thinking, a positive skeptical attitude, and the uplifting of the human spirit through the light of reason are fortunate that his vast body of work remains to encourage and challenge us as we face an always uncertain future.

Prometheus Books, contact: [jmaxick@prometheusbooks.com](mailto:jmaxick@prometheusbooks.com)

## Clearwater UU Humanists

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

The UU Humanists are open to all aspects of humanism, including investigation of religious humanism. However, the focus of the group is on secular aspects of humanism.

Programs have been well received with attendance between 50 and 75. To learn more, please contact: co-facilitators: Bill Norsworthy [bnorsworthy@verizon.net](mailto:bnorsworthy@verizon.net) Mark Brandt [mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mwbrandt@mail.usf.edu) Web site: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)



Clearwater, Florida

UU Humanists will be meeting next in October. **Don Chamberlin**, will be speaking on the subject of the many people before Charles Darwin, who had begun to suspect and research the idea of evolution by means of natural selection. Most scientists will willingly report that their discoveries have come on the shoulders of many who preceded them. Don has long been interested in this subject and will share his knowledge with us. **Mark your calendar!**

Be sure to check us out during the rest of the year, as we have some extraordinary programs and truly wonderful speakers. See page 1 for Carl Sagan Day! 10/14



## Florida NOW

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

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

The Florida National Organization for Women is a group dedicated to taking action to bring ALL women into full equality and participation through changing policy, law and culture. This mission attracts women and men of diverse backgrounds and gives us the ability to look at the systemic oppression in our lives and determine actions that will bring about change for all women.

Often, we are contacted by women and men who are facing "legal" situations, or in need of individual help. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide direct services, and for legal reasons we can not provide referrals for lawyers or other services. If you need these services, please consider doing an internet search for local attorneys, referral services, legal aide, domestic violence shelters, or other terms that are appropriate for your individual situation. Good luck.

## FLORIDA REPORT

Civil liberties news in the Sunshine State



### Get more involved. Run for a seat on your local ACLU board!

The tragic shooting of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri has raised many questions about how law enforcement treats the very citizens it is supposed to protect, including whether local law enforcement should be armed to the teeth with military grade equipment. Could a military response happen here in Florida? It's impossible to know right now, and we need to change that.



Both the Scott administration and the returning legislature need to mandate public reporting on what these agencies have and how it is used. Ultimately, there should be very strict limitations on how these weapons should be used in Florida, if ever.

For more: <http://aclufi.org/>

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF JOIN THE ACLU

10/14



Camilla Vásquez (World Languages)

## The Humanities Institute of USF

### The Discourse of Online Reviews

Wednesday, Oct. 15. Camilla Vásquez's book is the first to provide the discursive, pragmatic and rhetorical features of online reviews—a rapidly growing form of technologically-mediated communication. Examining a corpus of over 1,000 consumer reviews, Vásquez explores many of the discourse features that are characteristic of this new, user-generated, computer-mediated and primarily text-based genre. She investigates the language used by reviewers as they forge connections with their audiences to draw them into their stories, as they construct their expertise and authority on various subjects and as they evaluate and assess their consumer experiences. She also demonstrates how reviewers display their awareness about emerging conventions of the very genre in which they are participating.

Click here for [more great presentations 2014 schedule](#) 10/14

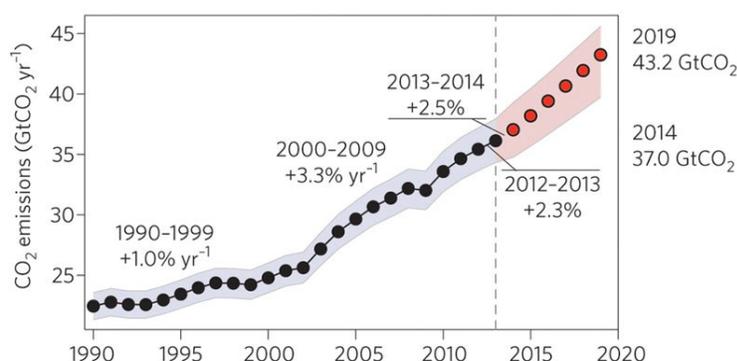
# Freedom of Thought for Our World, and Our Future

**Tampa Bay CoR**  
TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



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

## World to Reach Critical CO<sub>2</sub> Threshold in 30 Years, Scientists Say



Historical (black dots) and projected (red dots) global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in trillions of metric tons.

Only 1.2 trillion metric tons of carbon dioxide can be emitted in the future if nations are to avoid causing the global mean surface temperature to rise more than 2 degrees C beyond the pre-industrial average, [according to](#) researchers with the [Global Carbon Project](#). Combined historical and future carbon dioxide emissions must remain below 3.2 trillion metric tons to have a 66-percent chance of keeping that temperature increase below 2 degrees C — the internationally accepted benchmark for restraining global warming. But two-thirds of this allotment has already been emitted, and at the current pace of emissions, the global population will burn through the rest within the next 30 years, the researchers conclude. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rose 2.3 percent in 2013 and are on track to increase by 2.5 percent in 2014, according to the report, which was released ahead of September's UN climate summit.

The time for meaningful changes in large scale human activity is drawing to a close. Our descendants will encounter a very challenging world with conditions that will greatly and painfully reduce human numbers, and place in jeopardy the animal and plant life that now sustains us. Whatever we care about now, it is at base an environmental issue. **JP**

Click [www.tampabaypostcarbon.com](http://www.tampabaypostcarbon.com) for more.

10/14

## Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area: Tampa Humanist Association, Humanist Society of the Suncoast, Center for Inquiry, UU Humanists Clearwater, UU Humanists Tampa,\* Secular Student Alliance USF,\* Atheists of Florida, Plus numerous Meetup organizations that promote what are essentially Freethought ideas and principles.

(\*= not currently members of the Coalition)

Member organizations and agencies should contact the following CoR representatives about the matters indicated:

**Calendar:**  
Rick O'Keefe

**Newsletter:**  
**Jim Peterson**

**Web site:**  
Jim Peterson

**Special Projects**  
Mark Brandt

For several years now, various leaders of the Freethought community in the bay area have been meeting informally to share experiences, and occasionally to coordinate plans. But recently, changing circumstances have brought additional pressure to cooperate in bringing programs and members services to an expanding movement.

At this point leaders continue to meet, and together with the various boards of directors and committees, try to develop policies that will enable every group to enhance its unique role in serving its members.

There appears to be general agreement on developing several community wide programs over the year that will allow significant speakers to be presented in our area. The costs of these programs will be shared among the organizations proportionally.

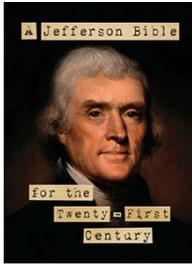
Thus substantive and exciting new activities will be offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

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

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

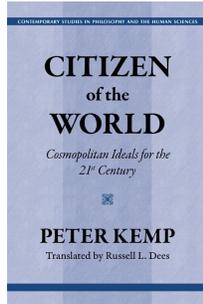
As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments. JP  
Contact: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)

# The Humanist Press



“The complete text of Thomas Jefferson's original cut-and-paste version of the Gospels, portraying Jesus as a wise but strictly human teacher, deliberately omitting what Jefferson called the "dross", plus the best and worst of other holy books.” [Info here.](#)

“In this overview of the cosmopolitan ideal, philosopher Peter Kemp argues that in the twenty-first century cosmopolitanism is more relevant than ever before. In fact, he insists that it is the only viable guiding ideal for politics and education in an increasingly interdependent world.” [More here.](#)



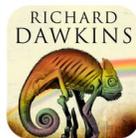
## Evolve Fish is a good source for your freethought goodies:

Pins, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, etc.  
<http://evolvefish.com/>

**Read Humanist Periodicals:** The world's leading minds can be read at: [The Humanist](#), [Free Inquiry](#), [Free Mind](#), [Humanist Perspectives](#), [Skeptical Inquirer](#), [Secular Humanist Bulletin](#), [The Florida Humanist Journal](#), [Skeptic](#), [Essays in Humanism](#), and many others. Look 'em up!

### *The Magic of Reality*

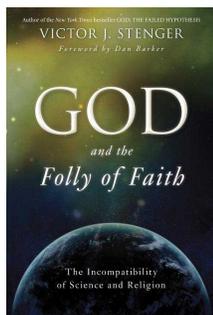
Download it to your I-pad to experience this award winning multi media book.



## Prometheus Books

### BOOKS BY VICTOR J. STENGER:

- God and the Multiverse
- God and the Atom
- God and the Folly of Faith
- God: The Failed Hypothesis
- The Comprehensible Cosmos
- The New Atheism
- Has Science Found God?
- The Fallacy of Fine-Tuning



### God and the Folly of Faith: The Incompatibility of Science and Religion

By Victor Stenger, Ph.D.  
 The story of the fight against superstition has been told before, but never like this. Victor Stenger confronts the battle between religious superstition and science with the eye of a trained physicist and the practicality of a superb teacher.  
 409 pages, Paperback, \$20.00 [Order here](#)

# The Matt Cooper

## Memorial Humanist Library.

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

#	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>
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 Niiose
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 Hawkins
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 a 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 Rest of 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	Piattelli & 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?	Fitrikas, 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 Eagers
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



## Tampa Bay Thinkers



Thinking deep thoughts about serious matters since 2008 at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. in Tampa, every third Monday of the month at 7 PM.

Come cogitate with us!

**Oct. 20th: "AI, good or Bad?"**

## 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.

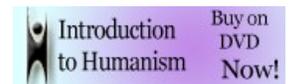
There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly Humanist Way of life.

Jennifer is author of several books including; The *Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, and her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine* (illustration below). - JP

See much more at: [www.Jen-Hancock.com](http://www.Jen-Hancock.com).

**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/parentingbeyondbelief).

## Humanism and Politics

The past month has been difficult. Not for me personally. I'm just happy to be alive. I'm still kind of in that - post emergency surgery state of - oh my goodness, I could have died!! But I didn't - so yay! state.

But the rest of the world seems to have fallen apart. There was the events in Ferguson, which had me not just angry, but furious. It's not an emotion I feel very often.

I can't tell you how angry I am that we are still dealing with and fighting segregation! Enough already. Humanism has a role to play in correcting the institutionalized violence that still plagues our citizens. My son's best friends in school are black and the fact that society treats these brilliant little boys different because of their skin color makes me more than a little upset. Things have to change! WE have to make things change!

But things aren't just going horribly wrong in America. We also have the problem of ISIS. And, yeah - that's a problem for Humanism too.

As a result, I've been feeling a bit disheartened lately. I keep trying to shake it - trying to keep doing what I'm doing and keep working on the things I think are important.

I know that teaching the skills to eliminate bullying and harassment can have far reaching impacts on our societies. I know that helping promote Humanism in the world of business will have a positive impact. But will it be enough?

And then, today, I came across this essay: <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/08/acting-french/375743/> - it's about how education is really about auto-liberation. Liberation of the self. In it, the author, while talking about his own journey to be educated, first had to become a nationalist, before he could become a humanist.

And suddenly I found myself relaxing. He's right. Our journey to be educated and to become more educated is a never ending struggle for auto-liberation. (which is my new favorite word!) That is what Humanism is about after all. Liberty and Freedom, for the self and for others. The more we learn, not just about the world, but about ourselves, the more we are able to demand our human rights and the better able we are to advocate on behalf of ourselves and others.

So while there are those that would like to keep us from being educated so that we can be controlled - we can still educate ourselves and make a difference.

*Jennifer Hancock*

10-14



## The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



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

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

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

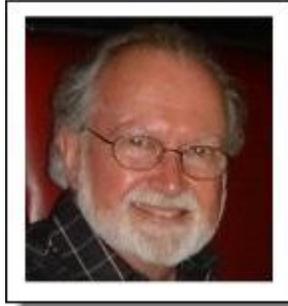
Contact: Chris

([christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:christbrown@yahoo.com))

MSgt, USAF (Retired) Co-Organizer:  
MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists  
(MASH) MacDill AFB, FL

# Institute for Rational Living

Institute for Rational Living  
2502 N Rocky Point Dr, Suite 1010  
Tampa, FL 33607-1406  
Office Phone: 1-727-278-8446  
Office Fax: 1-727-391-8459  
[vparr@ishv.net](mailto:vparr@ishv.net)



## Vincent Parr, PhD

Clinical Psychologist at  
Institute for Advanced Study MRL  
President at Institute for Rational Living  
Doc, Can You Help? is a unique service to the secular humanist community. A secular advice column, authored by Dr. Vincent Parr, it deals with all aspects of human problems ranging from disappointment to stress and suffering. Dr. Vincent Parr, PH.D., a clinical psychologist, post doctorate at the Albert Ellis Institute, has over 40 years experience in Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT), Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) and 23 years experience in Zen and Vipassana meditation. There are, however, basically two types of wisdom; wisdom that comes from words and concepts that are essentially left brain processes; and wisdom that comes from right brain processes, i.e., without words and concepts. Dr. Parr will use both of these areas to answer your questions and guide you to the dual goal of minimizing your problems and finding true contentment. Doc will answer as many questions as time permits that are submitted to [dparr11@verizon.net](mailto:dparr11@verizon.net). Find Doc on Facebook, or go to his section on the ISHV [website](http://www.ishv.net).

## Prepare for 2nd Annual Freethought Cruise

Come and escape to Cozumel next winter on a Caribbean cruise with David Silverman, President of American Atheists! Join dozens of other freethinkers on the second annual Freethought Cruise.

We set sail from Tampa, Florida Thursday afternoon, January 29th and visit Cozumel, Mexico returning to Tampa on Monday morning, February 2nd. During both days at sea David Silverman will speak to the group about his work for American Atheists, state/church separation, and his forthcoming book "I, Atheist". Of course, since David is vacationing with us for the weekend there will be plenty of opportunities for you to chat with him one on one.

Cozumel is one of the top diving and snorkeling destinations in the world for its bright coral reefs and beautiful beaches. Shore excursions will also take you to Mayan ruins and many other adventures listed below. Be sure to check out all of them before deciding.

We cruise on the Carnival Paradise which has plenty to do on board. There is Camp Carnival for the kids, several pools, hot tubs, and sun decks and first-rate entertainment. The ship even has dedicated teen and pre-teen clubs AND an adult only sun deck so bring the whole family if you like so everyone can enjoy themselves!

With a \$150 deposit, per person, you can select the cabin of your choice now. The total cost of the cruise is \$330 per passenger for an interior stateroom or \$370 for an ocean view. These prices are based on double occupancy, and includes all taxes and fees. Plus you will get \$50 on board credit per cabin for drinks or other on board expenses. Shore excursion prices are listed below or you can book these on your own if you choose.

After your initial deposit, you will be contacted to determine how you want to handle future payments (such as monthly or in one final payment).

If you seek a wonderful opportunity to have a fun weekend and hang out with fellow freethinkers, don't miss this one!

If you are interested, you may sign up directly through this link:  
<http://www.expertvacationstation.com/rw/view/3516>

Travel Specialist for our group:  
Jaine Nelson, Cruise Planners/American Express  
[jainenelson@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:jainenelson@cruiseplanners.com) Ph. 612-802-8810 or 651-785-5157



Check with CFI, AHA, and other groups for more Freethought Cruises!

## AH Appignani Humanist LC Legal Center

### Atheist Lawsuit Against Pittsburgh's Port Authority Settled

July 3, 2014 – UnitedCoR & AHLC victorious in suit over Port Authority's refusal to run bus ads for the Pittsburgh Coalition of Reason.

### AHLC Files Motion of Contempt Against Public School for Prayer

May 7, 2014 – Rankin County School District in Mississippi includes formal Christian prayer in student awards ceremony.

### American Humanist Association Wins Lawsuit Against Cross Monument in Lake Elsinore, California

April 23, 2014 – City officials decline to appeal ruling of federal judge

### Humanists File Lawsuit Against "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance in New Jersey

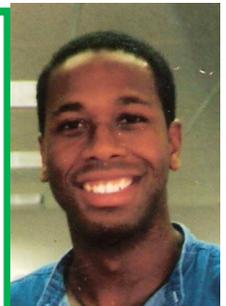
April 21, 2014 – School-sponsored Pledge violates state constitution's equal protection law

### AHA Sues for Equal Treatment of Humanist Inmates in Federal Prisons

April 8, 2014 – Lawsuit filed against correctional officials at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.



University of South Florida



Rodrick Colbert

**Freethinkers@USF** is a multicultural, interdisciplinary student society which welcomes USF students who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, humanists, or religiously open-minded who seek to promote reason, compassion, tolerance, and free inquiry on campus. We hope to contribute opportunity for interdisciplinary dialog to the USF community, and build scientific literacy for all to enable objective and rational interpretations of issues affecting our lives. The organization is open to anyone of any religious persuasion or personal beliefs.

Write Rodrick Colbert or [freethinkersusf@gmail.com](mailto:freethinkersusf@gmail.com).

**CAMP INQUIRY**  
IMAGINE. INVESTIGATE. ILLUMINATE.

**Click to register** Ages 7-16, Holland, NY

*Corliss Lamont*

There is much that can be said about *Humanist ethics*. But here are eleven main and succinct points proposed for your consideration.

First, Humanist ethics is concerned wholly with actions, ideals, and values on this earth in our one and only life. The utopia that is heaven must be built *in this world* or not at all.

Second, Humanist ethics is an affirmative one of joy and happiness, repudiating the Christian idea of original sin in human beings and any sense of puritanism. It adopts the old saying "While we're here, let's live in clover; for when we're dead, we're dead all over." Humanism rejects the Christian over-emphasis on sex morality and applies ethical principles to every aspect of human endeavor.

Third, Humanist ethics holds a liberal view on sex relations, but insists on high standards of conduct and believes in the institution of marriage, with easy divorce and some latitude of sexual variety for husband and wife.

Fourth, Humanist ethics relies on reason and scientific method in working out ethical decisions and has no use for prayer or divine guidance by some supernatural being.

Fifth, while Humanism believes in general ethical principles, most ethical decisions must be considered on an individualistic basis that evaluates the probable consequences and possible alternatives.

Sixth, in the age-long dialogue on self-interest versus altruism, Humanist ethics sees a false dichotomy and claims that a man or woman can harmoniously combine relative self-interest and relative altruism in working for the community good.

Seventh, the community good is one's family, one's city, one's college, one's state, one's nation, or all humanity; with the happiness and progress of the entire human race as the ultimate community good and the supreme ethical aim of Humanism.

Eighth, it follows from ordinary self-interest and the Humanist's concern for fellow humans that international peace is a principal ethical objective. This is more true today than ever before in view of the terrible nuclear weapons that have been developed and which threaten, if used in a war, the existence of all humankind.

Ninth, the ethics of Humanism is eclectic and incorporates whatever seems relevant from other philosophies or religions. For instance, many of the Christian precepts in the Old and New Testaments have an important place in the Humanist ethic.

Tenth, supporting democracy and civil liberties is an ethical imperative for Humanism, with complete freedom of expression in every field of human endeavor.

Eleventh, the Humanist ethic functions on the basis that human beings have true freedom of choice at the moment of making an ethical decision. Universal determinism that includes humankind would make any sort of ethics impossible and irrelevant.

My final word is that my outline of Humanist ethics is to be considered tentative and open to criticism and improvement. My eleven points are guiding principles, not absolutes.



---

*Corliss Lamont, recipient of the 1977 Humanist of the Year Award, taught at Columbia University for more than fifteen years. He is the author of The Philosophy of Humanism, The Illusion of Immortality, Freedom of Choice Affirmed, and A Humanist Wedding Service, all available on Amazon. He died in 1995.*

**Tampa Bay Skeptics** is currently being revived. See [Judy Adkins](#) for more info. Previously, it conducted investigations, followed the activities of other skeptics groups, monitored the press coverage of issues and published a quarterly newsletter, *Tampa Bay Skeptics Report*, TBS also provided a skeptical voice as a counterweight to the irrationalism and superstition that is increasingly prevalent in the television and print media. TBS is committed to objective and critical inquiry. In this vein, we share the philosophy of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI) -- publisher of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, an international organization that has nurtured the growth of local skeptics groups (such as we are aiming to bring into being) all over the world. Contact any freethought leader to or group to learn more.

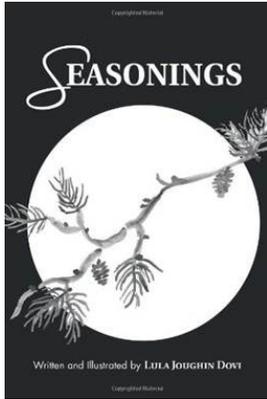


At the **Center for Inquiry**, we believe that evidence-based reasoning, in which humans work together to address common concerns, is critical for modern world civilization. Moreover, unlike many other institutions, we maintain that scientific methods and reasoning should be utilized in examining the claims of both pseudoscience and religion. We reject mysticism and blind faith. No topic should be placed off limits to scrutiny—certainly not fringe science and religion, which have an enormous influence on beliefs and conduct.

We also maintain that values are properly the subject of study and discussion as much as empirical claims. The Center for Inquiry studies and promotes human values based on a naturalistic outlook. Ideological doctrine and religious dogma have no more right to dictate our moral norms than they do to influence scientific research. *You can help:* [Membership/Renewals/Donations](#)



Rick O'Keefe



Humanist Society member, **Lula J. Dovi** has completed an illustrated chapbook of poetry reflecting on her 92 years and adventures. It is [available here](#) at Amazon.

### [Raif Badawi, Appeal Denied, Will Soon Face Brutal Punishment for Blasphemy - UPDATED](#)

Saudi Arabia's appeals court in Mecca has confirmed the sentence of human rights activist Raif Badawi, 30, to ten years in prison, 1,000 lashes, and a one million riyal fine (USD \$266,631). We must raise our voices to end the brutality. [Read more...](#)

***We need you to raise your voice:*** demand that Saudi Arabia free Raif, and respect the universally recognized human rights to freedom of expression and belief:

[Click here to jump to a list of Saudi officials to contact.](#)



Dr. Victor Stenger

**Victor Stenger, 1935–2014** (see pg. 9 for a list of his books.)

On August 27, the freethought community lost one of its boldest voices, as **Dr. Victor Stenger** died at age 79. A fellow of both CFI and the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, and a contributor to both of our magazines, Stenger was best known as the author of numerous books on the some of humanity's biggest questions, such as the *New York Times* bestseller *God: The Failed Hypothesis* and the just-released [God and the Multiverse](#). He's also the person who coined the antitheistic slogan, "Science flies you to the moon. Religion flies you into buildings."

"One thing I liked about Vic was his lack of pretense and posturing," [said CFI's president and CEO Ron Lindsay](#). "He didn't trim his arguments—or his beard—to please others. He was interested in determining the truth. Period. What others thought of his occasionally rumpled look or his refusal to soft-pedal his arguments was a matter of indifference to him. We'll miss both his intellect and his intellectual integrity."

### Sam Harris

in Conversation on [Point of Inquiry](#), the flagship podcast of the Center for Inquiry.

**Harris** discusses his efforts to claim "spirituality" grounded in science.



**Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc.**

**Sarasota, Florida**

Lectures, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations of the Humane use of technology. Attend our **Random act of Kindness** event for **Saturday, October 25th**. Visit our facility on 1510 Barry Rd. in Clearwater: Map: <http://tampa-bay.org/map.html>  
**Dave 'Doc' Dockery** President,  
Find us at: [www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org)  
**We repair our members computers!**

### Calendar of Upcoming main events:

Oct 29:

12: PM **lunch**, 1:45 PM **Current Affairs discussion group**.  
New Dynasty Restaurant, 6131 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota ([map](#))  
[more details»](#)

For more detailed information, see the HusBay [website](#):



<http://tampabay.unitedcor.org/tampabay/>

## Practical Freethought

The Coalition of Reason is a national organization, of which TBCoR is part. So you know that CoR isn't moribund, here are two most high-profile and important victories, reprinted from the national newsletter:

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: early July 2014** The Port Authority of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, paid \$20,000 in damages to UnitedCoR and \$40,000 in legal expenses to the Appignani Humanist Legal Center of the American Humanist Association in a major court settlement. . The lawsuit was filed after the Port Authority refused to run \$5,700 worth of bus ads aimed at promoting the [Pittsburgh Coalition of Reason](#).

The king-sized ads, to be placed on the sides of twelve buses serving Allegheny County, would have read: "Don't believe in God? You are not alone." Fred Edwards, national director of UnitedCoR, explained his reasons for agreeing with the Port Authority's settlement offer. "Although we still maintain that we were improperly denied the opportunity to run our ad, as originally conceived, under the Port Authority's old ad policy, the old policy is now gone. So even if the courts allowed our original ad to run, it would merely be grandfathered in as an exception. It wouldn't improve the situation for others." Edwards also added that the Port Authority hadn't applied its new ad policy correctly: other religious groups were allowed to run their ads, but atheists groups were denied.

**Little Rock, Arkansas: June 2011** UnitedCoR filed a federal lawsuit against the Central Arkansas Transit Authority (CATA) and its advertising agent, On the Move Advertising, for declining to run \$5,260 worth of bus ads aimed at attracting local atheists and agnostics. The queen-sized ads, which were to be placed on the sides of eighteen buses serving the Riverfest event, would have said: "Are

you good without God? Millions are."

The complaint and a motion for a preliminary injunction were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Legal services were donated by the Appignani Humanist Legal Center of the American Humanist Association, also headquartered in Washington DC. The bus ads were to launch the new [Central Arkansas Coalition of Reason](#). The ads would have directed inquirers to the Central Arkansas CoR website, inviting them to consider joining any of the groups in the coalition. But after negotiations with On the Move Advertising and CATA failed in March and couldn't be revived afterwards, UnitedCoR had no choice but to pursue legal action.

UnitedCoR alleged that CATA and On the Move violated UnitedCoR's free speech rights under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution because CATA, as a governmental entity, was wrong for using its disfavor of the nontheistic message of UnitedCoR's ads as a reason for refusing to run them on its buses. UnitedCoR also argued that CATA was wrong for asking them to pay a "damage deposit" on speech it labeled "controversial." Such acts, the legal brief stated, amounted to unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination against UnitedCoR's speech.

Little Rock seemed to have forgotten the lesson on government discrimination against atheists that they were taught in 2009. The Arkansas Society of Freethinkers, one of the groups now part of [Central Arkansas CoR](#), had won a lawsuit allowing its nontheistic winter holiday display to appear near a Christian crèche on state capitol grounds.

*We need the support of freethinkers in the bay area to help us provide the many activities that a handful of us work to give you, so please do your part: pay for membership in a member association, join in, volunteer, don't hide your beliefs. R.O.*

## Holidays of Special Interest

- **2014** is the UN International Year of Family Farming

**October** is Awareness Month

October 4 - 10 is World Space Week

1st Vegetarian Day

5th World Teachers day

13th International Skeptics Day

16th Dictionary Day

19th Evaluate your Life Day

26th Mother-in-Law Day

29th National Frankenstein Day

30th Candy Corn Day



### TBCoR Leadership Team 2014

Mark Brandt, Chris Brown, Jennifer Hancock, Rick O'Keefe, Jim Peterson, Tracy Thomas  
 UUCH MAF TBHF CFI HSS, TBPC AoF

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

### Be Included!

Group Leaders are invited to send items for this Newsletter. Please send them to: [tbcornews@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcornews@metrodirect.net)  
 For calendar items, include as much info as possible.