



February 2008

Volume 6, Issue 2

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### **Earl Coggins**

**A**lbert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." With that in mind, the First Coast Freethought Society held its annual planning meeting on January 13, 2008. In attendance were the Board of Directors, some committee chairs, and several of our members.

The agenda was divided into four segments: 2008 projects, fundraising methods, long-range planning, and monthly programs. The participants put their freethinking hats on and rolled up their sleeves for two hours of intense brainstorming

and discussion.

Project thoughts included comments on a number of current ideas as well as new ones. The main goal of many projects was to increase public awareness of our society and issues relevant to the freethought movement.

*I want to thank everyone who attended. It was very moving to hear the level of commitment to the society.*

The National Public Radio announcements were viewed as a phenomenal success and crucial our continued growth. At issue is

funding, since the spots are funded only for the first half of this year.



Renting the San Marco Theater to show a movie (for public access) with a freethought theme was also discussed. Movie titles under consideration included *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Contact*, and *Letting Go of God*.

A billboard with thought-provoking content and FCFS contact info is being explored.

Fundraising was discussed in depth. It was  
*(Continued on page 5)*

*"Biologists no longer question whether evolution has occurred or is occurring."*  
<http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/modern-synthesis.html>

## February 2008 Meeting

Matthew Gilg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, University of North Florida

### **"What Genetics Teaches Us About Evolution"**

**Monday, February 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

(Upstairs in the Sanctuary - Doors open at 6:00)

Unitarian Universalist Church • 7405 Arlington Expressway • Jacksonville, FL

## HUMANIST BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

- When:** 2:00 p.m., the third Sunday of each month.
- Where:** Borders Books, 8801 Southside Blvd., 519-6500, books are usually in stock.
- What:** Books/magazines planned for discussion:



- February 17, 2008 - *Dark Ages America—The Final Phase of Empire*, by Morris Berman
- March 16, 2008 - *Robbing Us Blind*, by Steve Brouwer and Matt Wuerker

*Robbing Us Blind* is freely skeptical and refreshingly truthful. Terms like "Gang" and "Robber Baron" are useful tools to frame the point of the book but aren't really necessary—had they been omitted, most likely the reader would have come to the same conclusion by the end, regardless. But the only reason they sound shocking in the first place is that the mainstream media has been so complicit in playing into Bush's hands, disguising his and his associates' true natures.

The language is hard and to the point—pulling no punches. Brouwer calls a spade a spade—and a thief a thief and a liar a liar. At first, the terms used sound unfair and entirely subjective. But by the end, it's difficult to feel that this is anything other than the truth, finally called by its name.

Here, the truth is told in not only all its unvarnished perversity but also in scrupulously footnoted, factual detail. (Excerpted from a review by Matthew Vaughan, Palo Alto, CA)

For more information, contact moderator Jewell Kross at [JKross@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org](mailto:JKross@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org) or call 904-996-1553.

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**First Coast  
FreeThinker**

The *First Coast FreeThinker* is published for members of the First Coast Freethought Society, other freethinkers, and potential freethinkers. We exchange newsletters with other freethought groups and obtain information from many diverse sources.

Readers are invited and encouraged to reprint our original materials provided they give credit to this publication.

The officials of the FCFS are not responsible for opinions or other statements expressed in this newsletter. It is intended to convey ideas to stimulate discussion on a variety of subjects.

### Newsletter Staff

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We welcome submissions. The deadline is the **FOURTH SATURDAY** of each month for the following month's issue. Submit contributions by e-mail to Hugo (see above), or U.S. mail to Hugo Borresen, 8831 Taurus Circle South, Jacksonville, FL 32222. Submit web site contributions to Carrie Renwick at the e-mail address above.

## The War on Evolution Explained

Earl Coggins

February is the birth month of Charles Robert Darwin. He was born on the same day as Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1809, which has probably given many a conspiracy theorist more than a few moments of reflection.

Patron Saint of Scientific Advancement to the rational-minded and High Priest of Blasphemy to many of the religious minded, Darwin is credited (Alfred Russel Wallace formulated evolutionary theory independently around the same time) with revolutionizing biology with his theory of evolution through the process of natural selection.

Evolution has been, since the publication of his book *The Origin of Species* (which incidentally sold out on the first day of publication) in 1859, one of the most contested and controversial scientific theories in recorded history. The players are the most interesting feature of this century-and-a-half-old contentious debate. One would think a disputed scientific theory would be a battle fought between scientists, but that (sadly) has not been the case.

So who are the combatants in the world war on evolution? Scientists, other than the fringe, are all in agreement that many branches of science, and all biological ones, are derived from evolutionary theory. Is it surprising to find out that the

principal opponents of the theory are actually nonscientists? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

The push to suppress and invalidate evolutionary theory is coming from organized religion. The leaders of the anti-evolution campaign are descendants of the anti-science regime, both having as their only goal the suppression of any knowledge that ultimately proves religious codes of belief to be false.

The laundry list of concepts opposed by organized religion, specifically Christianity, is long and appalling. Anything that

***Anything that opposed the church, its teachings, its writings, or the thoughts of its leaders was considered either blasphemous or heretical, and more importantly, illegal.***

opposed the church, its teachings, its writings, or the thoughts of its leaders was considered either blasphemous or heretical, and more importantly, illegal. Christian leaders, it seems, were accustomed to getting their way. They were beyond reproach. Punishment was usually death, unless you were a powerful person. Is it any wonder that it took so long to get from Greek thought to a space shuttle?

In the beginning (and I use that cliché loosely), there was opposition to the notion put forth by the rationally inclined

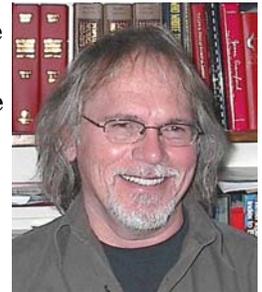
thinkers of the day that the earth might be spherical as opposed to flat. This was followed by a rejection of heliocentric theory, that insane and sacrilegious idea that the sun did not orbit the earth, but in fact, the opposite actually occurred.

Next on the list of no-no's was the notion that bad weather had a natural as opposed to supernatural explanation.

Thunder, lightning, tornados, and hurricanes were thought to be the work of humans consorting with the devil to create mayhem. They were commonly referred to as witches. This type of thinking led early Christian leaders to commission teams of investigators whose job it

was to find these creators of catastrophic storms, then prosecute and punish them (not necessarily carried out in that order) for crimes against the church. Thus, we have the historic and atrocious witch hunts that occurred across Europe and beyond.

Another huge area of science rejected by the church was disease/germ theory, particularly the aspects of hygiene, inoculation, and vaccination. Organized religion remains involved to this very day opposing medical research (cloning and stem-cell) that



conflicts with church doctrine.

Bad hygiene, or indignity to the body (as it was defined by Christian dogma) and particularly filthiness, was considered evidence of sanctity. Cleanliness was considered related to pride, and pride was a sin. Inoculation and vaccination were considered an interference with God's will. Opposition to these led to widespread plagues.

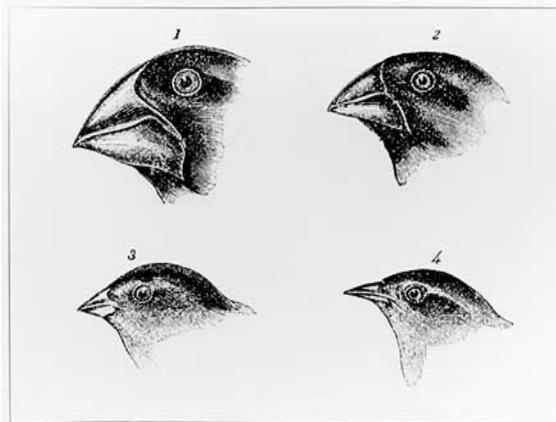
Anesthetics and autopsies were also opposed, the first falling under the general rule of disobedience to God's will, and the second because the church abhorred the shedding of blood. Religion, both organized and unorganized (can you say fundamentalist), has shed more blood than any other human endeavor, so how they made that claim is unclear.

Benjamin Franklin stepped in and caused an uproar with his famous kite. It led to the perception that lightning had natural causes, then to the invention of the lightning rod, which the church immediately opposed because it was controlling the trajectory of the lightning bolt, something only God should be able to do. This is ironic because lightning usually strikes the tallest object nearest to its point of impact. During the time period of opposition to lightning rod technology, the tallest objects around, not surprisingly, were church steeples.

The explanation of baffling phenomena using natural causes led to a phase of inquiry highly detrimental to church doctrine.

More and more people were inclined to use the scientific method versus millennia-old dogma and myth as a way of ascertaining the laws of nature.

This caused leaders of Christianity to label many people associated with scientific endeavors (mostly men because women in leadership and teaching roles was suppressed by the church) as heretics and subject to malicious and brutal treatment. Galileo is a prime example.



### *Darwin's finches*

Evolution then waltzed in with the idea that we could be related to apes. Darwin waited over two decades before submitting his world famous manuscript for publication, due in large part to an anticipated calamitous backlash from religious leaders over it and its theory. That backlash was unprecedented and exists to this very day.

Why is this so important? In his book, Darwin contends that the probability of every species having descended from previous species is very high. His contention has continued to be supported. This leads to a

conclusion fatal to religious dogma, specifically the portions that deal with the origin of humans. The conclusion? That humans probably evolved from previous and dissimilar types of life. This negates the story of creation as told in the Bible.

Why is the negation of the creation story in the Bible, the one about Adam and Eve, such a dilemma for Christianity? Because one of the main precepts of that religion is the infallibility of its holy book. The

Bible is considered infallible because it is supposedly the word of God. If anything in the Bible is proven to be wrong, then we have to conclude that God is wrong (which Christians say is not possible) and that opens Pandora's Box. It means the entire Bible is now open to scrutiny, which in turn sets up a domino effect where the bottom falls out of

Christianity (no doubt leading to a huge surge in résumé-software purchases).

In other words, the stakes are high.

It is now clear that the opponents of evolutionary theory have ulterior motives for their opposition to it. Their resistance is a matter of credibility (and possibly survival). If evolutionary theory becomes generally accepted, then dogma from Christianity and other religions will be relegated to folklore status.

The interesting aspect here is how effective their campaign strategy has been in the realm of public understanding of evolutionary theory: Tell a lie

loud enough and long enough and the public will accept it as truth.

It is all too evident that there is a sick elephant on the table of reason. That elephant is religion. The time for truth to

exist unimpeded by the shackles of myth, superstition, and antiquated religious dogma is long overdue.



### **President's Message for February 2008**

(Continued from page 1)

agreed that our society could play a pivotal role in developing a more rationally-based approach to life in our community, fostering respect for nonreligious people and organizations, and educational standards, but only if we have funding to pursue our ideas and long-range goals.

Long-range plans include having a freethought column in a local newspaper (probably *Folio Weekly*), creating a scientific/academic advisory committee, forming an FCFS family/youth component, and creating a coalition of local groups interested in church-state separation issues.

Monthly programs were discussed, and we have great speakers lined up for 2008, with

plans for educational programs scattered throughout the coming year to bring new freethinkers up to speed on the history of the movement.

We had a dynamic two-hour discussion that yielded many great new ideas and ways to enhance some ideas already on the table. I want to thank everyone who attended. It was very moving to hear the level of commitment to this society.



## **Ongoing FCFS Activities**

### **Dinners For Atheists (and Freethinkers, Humanists, Agnostics, etc.)**

Sign up to attend or host a dinner yourself. Sign-up sheets will be at the back table at the monthly meetings. For further details on how this works, see page 9 of the February 2006 *Freethinker*, or ask the hospitality ladies at the back table.

### **Secular Sunday Morning in the Park (or Atheist Sunday Morning)**

Freethinkers... let's get acquainted and enjoy intelligent conversation **every 4th Sunday of the month** (unless inclement weather prevails) at 10 a.m. 'til ? at the pavilion at Losco Park, 10851 Hood Rd., S., Jacksonville 32257, between Shad and Losco Roads. Need directions? Call Beth Perry at 733-5489 or Google the address to get a map and directions. Bring your own cup and breakfast snack. Most of the time coffee is furnished. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there!

### **No Atheist Left Behind (or Are You Going My Way?)**

If you are seeking a ride to an FCFS event, contact **Hugo Borresen** at [HBorresen@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org](mailto:HBorresen@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org) or call 904-779-6883.

### **Caring Tree**

If a telephone call to a member is in order, or if a sympathy card, flowers, or some form of support is needed, please contact **Nita Pitts** at 904-996-0879 or e-mail her at [pitrymnd@comcast.net](mailto:pitrymnd@comcast.net). If you prefer, leave a notation on the sign-in sheet at the back table at one of our monthly meetings.

## Council of Europe Approves Resolution Against Creationism

Sigrun Buckley

Europe has embraced evolution. I always knew that, but it was nice to have it confirmed lately when I stumbled across an old issue of the *Skeptical Inquirer*, Nov/Dec 2007. Here are some excerpts from the Council of Europe's resolution on the dangers of teaching creationism in schools.

*The aim of this resolution is not to question or to fight a belief—the right to freedom of belief does not permit that. The aim is to warn against certain tendencies to pass off a belief as science. It is necessary to separate belief from science. It is not a matter of antagonism. Science and belief must be able to coexist. It is not a matter of opposing belief and science, but it is necessary to prevent belief from opposing science.*

*For some people the Creation, as a matter of religious belief, gives a meaning to life. Nevertheless, the Parliamentary Assembly is worried about the possible ill-effects of the spread of creationist ideas within our education systems and about the consequences for our democracies. If we are not careful, creationism could*

*become a threat to human rights which are a key concern of the Council of Europe.*

*Creationism, born of the denial of the evolution of species through natural selection, was for a long time an almost exclusively American phenomenon. Today creationist ideas are tending to find their way into Europe and their*

***The teaching of all phenomena concerning evolution as a fundamental scientific theory is therefore crucial to the future of our societies and our democracies.***

*spread is affecting quite a few Council of Europe member states...*

*There is a real risk of serious confusion being introduced into our children's minds between what has to do with convictions, beliefs, ideals of all sorts, and what has to do with science. An "all things are equal" attitude may seem appealing and tolerant, but is in fact dangerous.*

*The teaching of all phenomena concerning evolution as a fundamental scientific theory is therefore crucial to the future of our societies and our democracies. For that reason it must occupy a central position in the curricula, and especially in the science syllabuses, as long as, like any other theory, it is able to stand up to thorough scientific scrutiny.*



I found it pertinent to our ongoing battle with the Florida Board of Education and sent e-mails to its board members with the following link advising them of the view and guidelines of a continent comprising 47 member states and a population of almost 800 million. For the full text please go to: <http://www.assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta07/eres1580.htm>.

My lucky find happened on the day when I followed up on Carrie Renwick's e-mail titled, "New Florida Science Standards — KEEP FIGHTING, FOLKS!"

Coincidence? Divine intervention? Maybe I should start playing the lottery.



Support the proposed public school science standards. For more information, see <http://www.flasciencestandards.org/>.

## Gutting the Separation of Church and State in the Florida Constitution And Other Bad Ideas

Curtis Wolf

*“No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.”*

This statement is in Article I, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. It seems self explanatory. If you want to give public money to religious organizations, what part of ‘no’ do you not understand?!

Unfortunately, this constitutional provision may be history if a proposal being considered by the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission is placed on the ballot. Before we talk about the proposal, let’s get to know the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission.

The Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (<http://www.floridatbrc.org/>) is a commission established by Article XI, Section 6, of the Florida Constitution whose mission is to evaluate taxation and budgetary policy for the state of Florida. Its 25 voting members and its four non-voting ex officio members are selected by the governor, the speaker of house and senate president. It meets every twenty years.

One of the proposals

(CP0020), submitted by commissioner Patricia Levesque and being considered by the commission, removes the aforementioned prohibition against the expenditure of public money by religious organizations and adds a rather vague statement, “Individuals or entities may not be barred from participating in public programs because of their religion” to the Florida constitution.

Presently, it has been reported favorably out of the Governmental Procedures & Structure Committee of the

***Proposal CP0020 goes way too far by removing an important state constitutional protection against the mixing of church and state.***

commission. The commission has the power to place this proposal on the November 2008 ballot as a proposed constitutional amendment. This means that Florida supporters of the separation of church and state may be in for the fight of their lives when November rolls around. We will know by May 4th, when any constitutional amendments proposed by the commission have to be submitted to the Florida Secretary of State, if it will appear on the 2008 ballot.

Anyone who has read my articles knows that I support the right of parents to take their tax dollars and spend them at a school of their choice, even if the money is spent at a private religious school. However, I do not support direct public financial support for any religious organization. Proposal CP0020 goes way too far by removing an important state constitutional protection against the mixing of church and state.



What do we do now? It is important that we do not wait until November before we organize ourselves against this proposal. Every organization that supports the separation of church and state must mobilize its base membership. The first thing that we should do is start an e-mail campaign to encourage Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission members not to approve CP0020 as a proposed constitutional amendment.

If it appears on the ballot, then Florida supporters of the separation of church and state must start a public education campaign to defeat this amendment. However, as any political candidate will tell you, taking the cause to the people is expensive. How to do this with limited funds. Hmm...



## Questioning Authority

Fred W. Hill

The first morality lesson that the bibles of the Judeo-Christian faiths offer for our consideration is that authority must be obeyed without question. Adam and Eve, who were apparently created without knowledge of right and wrong, give in to temptation and take bites of a fruit from the tree of knowledge, contravening a direct order from God who consequently evicts them from paradise. Even as a child who still tentatively believed in God, I was struck by the absurdity and unjustness of the tale. It was the fruit, after all, that gave Adam and Eve knowledge of right and wrong, so how could they be justly penalized for an action they were incapable of knowing was “wrong” despite prior warnings? Ah, but I was just a kid and who was I to question God or to question elders who told me I was supposed to take to heart the lesson that I should never question any authority, but must always meekly obey? Who, indeed, are any of us to question authority?

Well, of course, we are humans with highly evolved brains that enable us to analyze, to imagine, to question. Human imaginations could conjure a god and convince others of its reality and even that its will, as written and interpreted by self-proclaimed authorities, must be obeyed at all costs, even if there was much disagreement about the exact nature of divine will.

Human reason, however, can interpret evidence for claims of the existence of God or the authenticity of any “holy” book and realize that there is none.

Throughout known history, those who would impose authority have attempted to convince others of the necessity of blind obedience, at least to their particular authority, as obedience to competing *wrong* authorities would just be wicked and foolhardy and cause floods, the heartbreak of psoriasis, and all manner of other nasty events. Whether they were witch doctors, kings, priests, or Vice-Presidents in undisclosed loca-

**Questioning authorities who resort to brute force, deceptions or even—to be charitable—honest errors, is the first but necessary step in undermining their power.**

tions, they claimed to have unique knowledge and understanding that must not be questioned. Of course, time and again people did question, and moreover, opposed such authorities. Thus came the Protestant Reformation, the American War for Independence, the French Revolution, President Nixon’s resignation, to name just a few events. Too often one brand of absolutist authority was simply replaced by another.

Reason has also had triumphs, however, as autocratic rulers have been largely replaced by elected governments

restricted by the rule of law, while ancient superstitions have been supplanted by the scientific method of acquiring knowledge, among the rational and well-educated at least. Religious authority has never been based on anything other than hearsay or supposed personal revelations that could never be independently verified. Scientific authority is based on physical evidence or experimentation anyone can observe or duplicate with knowledge of the methods. Religious authority has been overthrown by wars, the whims of royalty, or even public rejection; while scientific authority is only overthrown by the recognition of better science. The Roman Empire, for example, became Christian-dominated due to Imperial dictate and enforcement,

not due to better evidence for the existence of the odd three-in-one combo of the Hebrew god, son, and “holy ghost” than for the discarded Olympian deities.

Ptolemy’s erroneous geocentric concept of the universe, on the other hand, was displaced by the Copernicus heliocentric description not due to the latter’s mere say-so or power to enforce his will, but on methods of observation and deduction he wrote down, enabling other astronomers to duplicate his means and see for themselves.

Yet, even if Copernicus had never existed, the capacity to



discover the true nature of Earth's relationship with the Sun and other planets existed all along and had been hypothesized in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century BCE by an Indian sage known as [Yajna-valkya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliocentrism), as well as by other scholars of the ancient Mesopotamian, Greco-Roman, and Muslim cultures centuries before Copernicus was born (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliocentrism>).

Similarly, the reality of evolution would eventually have been discovered and verified by scientific means even if Darwin had never lived. Indeed, his grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, who died before Charles's birth, espoused his own ideas on evolution, and Darwin's younger contemporary, Alfred Wallace, came up with ideas very similar to Darwin's based on similar observations and insights even before Darwin made his theories public, having previously shared them with only a few colleagues in the scientific community. In contrast, without the unique "revelations" described by Mohammed, Joseph Smith, and L. Ron Hubbard, no

one would ever have "discovered" Islam, Mormonism, or Scientology.

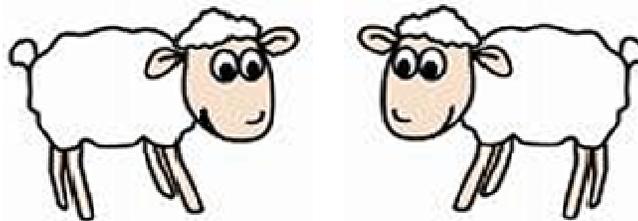
The unknown authors of the story of Adam and Eve may have intended to stress the consequences of disobedience, even to arbitrary authority. Of course, in the much later story of Jesus, he too suffered dire consequences for challenging authority, though with the twist that he was supposedly God himself

meted (or will mete, depending on the "authority") out even more severe punishment on all who merely doubt his authority, never mind doubt his existence, than did his father, who is himself and one with his own ghost. God, after all merely exiled or killed those who failed to obey him; Jesus would damn them all to Hell for eternity, but, oh, he loves us so!

To my mind, however, the lesson of the expulsion from Eden is that any authority based solely on might is unjust and deserves abhorrence rather than reverence.

As a freethinker, I do question authority and claim an intellectual right to do so, judiciously of course (another of my childhood lessons was, "never question Dad's orders within his hearing or you'll get a nasty smack on the head!").

Questioning authorities who resort to brute force, deceptions or even—to be charitable—honest errors, is the first but necessary step in undermining their power. As Earl Coggins has often expressed, to question is the answer.



**Sure, I hated the sign at first. But after a long day of grazing, I am just too tired to think for myself!**

in mortal (though still divine, most Christians insist) guise and was killed by mortals who failed to recognize a son of God when they saw one. We are assured, however, that not only did he return from the dead but he

Question:

If Adam and Eve found out that it was wrong to walk around naked after eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, why did God allow them to do it in the first place?

## Hell on Earth

One evening, a young woman came home from a date looking very despondent. She told her mother, "Anthony

proposed to me an hour ago."

"Then why are you so sad, honey?" her mother asked.

"Because he also told me he is an atheist. Mom, he doesn't

even believe there's a Hell."

Her mother replied, "Marry him anyway. Between the two of us, we'll show him just how wrong he is."



First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.  
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<http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org>

### Statement of Purpose

The First Coast Freethought Society, Inc. is an educational, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization dedicated to supporting nonreligious persons in the Northeast Florida area and promoting a nontheistic approach to everyday life.

### Meetings

The FCFS meets the THIRD Monday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, upstairs in the sanctuary, 7405 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville, Florida 32211, (904) 725-8133. Meeting time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

### Committees and Chairs

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## February Social - All Welcome!

**WHERE:** STEAK & ALE at Baymeadows and I-95 South

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008. Gather in Lounge at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

**RSVP:** [CarrieRen@att.net](mailto:CarrieRen@att.net) (or 268-8826) by Feb. 25, **IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND!**

First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 550591, Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591 • (904) 288-6291

2008 Membership Application



Name		Date	
Home address	City	State	Zip Code
E-mail address	Home phone	Business phone	
Occupation	Areas of interest and/or expertise		

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership level (please select one):

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (\$30/yr.)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl Sagan (\$50/yr.)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Darwin (\$200/yr.)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$15/yr.)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Bertrand Russell (\$75/yr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Ingersoll (\$500/yr.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior - 65+ (\$15/yr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Paine (\$100/yr.)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (\$1,000)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$45/yr.)       |  |   |

I'm interested in getting involved in the FCFS as a(n):

- General member     Committee member     Officer     Financial supporter

Do you object to your name appearing on our membership list, which is only distributed to other members? YES

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

***You can make a lasting impact on the future of  
freethought and secular humanism in this community  
...if you provide for the First Coast Freethought Society in your Will.***

Your bequest will ensure that the FCFS continues to be a beacon for freethinkers on the First Coast and to remain a vital Voice of Reason in the Northeast Florida area. Several options are available for establishing a bequest (specific, percentage, residual, or contingent). We will be happy to provide the appropriate wording to you and your attorney, depending upon your wishes.

For further information, contact  
Carrie Renwick, P.O. Box 550591, Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591 or  
904-288-6291 • [CarrieRen@att.net](mailto:CarrieRen@att.net) • <http://www.firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org/>  
All inquiries are held in the strictest confidence.

# February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Darwin's Birthday	13	14	15	16
17 Book Group	18 Monthly Meeting	19	20	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline
24 Secular Sunday	25	26 Steak and Ale	27	28	29	

**Next deadline for article submission: February 23, 2008**

Visit our website at <http://www.firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org/>.

(In the Adobe version, the links are *LIVE!* Ctrl & Click will take you there.)

Return service requested



First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.  
10653 Hearstone Drive  
Jacksonville, Florida 32257