



May 2008

Volume 6, Issue 5

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NPR Corporate Sponsorship Fund Drive

Earl Coggins

It has been said that money is power, which implies power is available for those willing to purchase it. The First Coast Freethought Society has been purchasing a very powerful tool for the past year—radio announcements on National Public Radio (NPR) member station WJCT, in Jacksonville.

The announcement (or “spot”) seems simple on the surface.

“The First Coast Freethought Society supports nonreligious persons in the Northeast Florida area, welcoming

humanists, agnostics, atheists, and freethinkers. More information at 288-6291 or on the web at FirstCoastFreethoughtSociety.org.”

For all its subtlety, the spot is powerful, broadcasting compelling and persuasive memes (concepts) to 1.5 million WJCT listeners. Think

If we pool our resources, we can keep the FCFS the powerful voice of reason that Florida’s First Coast so desperately needs.

of the words that are rarely used in public that are now a regular part of the monthly radio mix on WJCT. ***freethought, nonreligious, humanist, agnostic, atheist, freethinker.***

We now have these words associated with Jack-



sonville, Northeast Florida, and NPR. Not only that, we also have them connected to a group that lives, breathes, and exists right here in

Northeast Florida, in the middle of the Bible-belt! Add to that the broadcast of our contact information, and we have indeed purchased power.

The spot was intended to reach fellow freethinkers who otherwise would never know of our existence. A mes-

(Continued on page 3)

God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him.”

—Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher

May 2008 Meeting

John Anderson, Ph.D., Professor, University of North Florida

“Why Religion Won’t Go Away”

Monday, May 19, 2008, 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:

- May 18, 2008 - *The Portable Atheist*, edited by Christopher Hitchens
- June 15, 2008 - *The Future of Life*, by Edward O. Wilson



Edward O. Wilson founded sociobiology, the controversial branch of evolutionary biology, and is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest living scientists. A Harvard professor for more than four decades, he received many of the world's top prizes in science and conservation and has written two Pulitzer Prize-winning books. In *The Future of Life*, Wilson delivers a plea for a new human ethic based on a wiser, more careful stewardship of our vanishing natural world. For as America consumes and the Third World tries to keep up, we lose biological diversity at an alarming rate. Wilson argues that the central challenge facing humanity in the new century is to raise the standard of living of the world's growing poor, while preserving as much of the rest of life as possible. (\$14.)

For more information, contact moderator Jewell Kross at JKross@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org or call 904-996-1553. (NOTE: If you purchase books from Amazon, please go to our website FIRST and then click the link to Amazon.com. firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org Thank you!

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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|---------------|--|----------|
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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 website contributions to Carrie Renwick at the e-mail address above.

April 2008 President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

sage in a bottle on a sea of irrationality, we have reached people who are now members and part of the growing First Coast family of freethinkers. Our NPR spot is a phenomenal success.

A hidden value in the ad is its ability to influence on a subconscious level. NPR listeners hear the atypical and unfamiliar terms—freethought, freethinker, agnostic, atheist, and humanist—and before you know it, these terms become familiar. And eventually (if we keep the ad running), they become acceptable pieces of Northeast Florida dialogue. This means not only acceptance of these words, but finally acceptance of what these words mean.

My purpose in writing about our NPR Corporate Sponsorship is to make everyone aware that our six-month contract for the second half of 2008 is up for renewal in June. This means May is fundraising month! At 13 spots a month, at \$52.50 per prime-driving-time slot, for six months, the cost is \$4,095. We were able to pay for the January through June run from our treasury. But now, the FCFS needs its members to keep this great tool alive and enable us to renew our contract.

As of May 4, we have 121 members and 561 friends on our mailing list (thanks in great part to our NPR spots)—more than enough family and friends to get the job done. If 41 people give \$100 each, we can renew our contract. Likewise, if 100 people give \$41, we can make it happen.

Of course the level of donation will depend on each giver. You know how generous you can afford to be. Please take a moment to give that some thought, and make your commitment to support NPR and the First Coast Freethought Society.

I believe earnestly we could not spend money more wisely. Our spot is bringing solidarity to the freethought community by getting freethinkers connected. It is also establishing a new paradigm on the local scene, giving nonconforming ideas a place at the community table.

Money is power. If we pool our resources, we can keep the FCFS the powerful voice of reason that Florida's First Coast so desperately needs. To donate, mail a check to the FCFS, P.O. Box 550591, Jax, 32255-0591, or visit the website.



Freethinkers Celebrate Earth Day!

June Applen

The First Coast Freethought Society participated again this year in the Earth Day festivities held at the Jacksonville Landing on Saturday, April 19.

I coordinated the display table and recruited volunteers who responded generously, so that throughout the 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. time period, at least two people were at our table and sometimes more.

We are grateful to Jewell Kross, Judy Hankins, Joan Ja-

cobs, Alice Fisher, and Stephen Peek for giving their time and energy to this cause. I think we also enjoyed ourselves!

We explained our organization and its functions to many passers-by, and quite a few indicated they would like to follow up with us. We garnered three pages of names and contact information on our "for more information" sheets, which have been duly added to the FCFS mailing list. Our handouts were accepted by many, and the large colorful posters which Carrie Renwick had printed especially

for Earth Day were particularly popular. All in all, our part in this year's Earth Day program was successful, and I hope it will be a part of FCFS plans for next year, also.



(Ed. Note: The poster mentioned above depicts the scientific version of creation, and its image appears in the article, "Terry Loucks Rewrites Genesis" found on page 8 of the April 2008 FreeThinker.)



Yahoo! We Have a New FCFS Feature for Members and Friends, Alike!

Carrie Renwick

From time to time, I send out an item of interest to our e-mailing list which stimulates excellent comments and replies which, of course, come only to me. Additionally, people have expressed a desire to have more dialogue with other freethinkers on various freethought issues.

To that end, the Board invites you to join the First Coast Freethought Society's Yahoo group. It is called "Jaxfreethought." If you're interested in joining (or subscribing to) the "Jaxfreethought" Yahoo group, or wish to learn more, read on.

How a Yahoo Group Works

A Yahoo group acts as an automatic e-mail forwarding service. You send an e-mail to the Jaxfreethought Yahoo group via a special e-mail address, and Yahoo forwards your message to everyone who has joined (or subscribed to) the group.

For example, say that 30 folks have subscribed to the Jaxfreethought group. When you send a message addressed to jaxfreethought@yahoogroups.com, it will go to all 30 persons in the group. Quite interesting dialogue with multiple people can conveniently take place.

Key Points

1. The Jaxfreethought Yahoo group does not take the place of my e-mailing list. They are separate! I shall continue to send meeting notices, reminders, announcements, and the newsletter as usual.
2. A word of caution!! When you reply to a message posted on the Jaxfreethought Yahoo group, remember that your message will be read by

No one will be placed on the Jaxfreethought Yahoo group automatically. If you want to join, you need to subscribe.

all the subscribers to Jaxfreethought. Take care to avoid inadvertently sending to the group a message of a personal or private nature.

3. You will know you have received a message posted to the group because the name [jaxfreethought] will appear in the Subject Field, in brackets, just like that. You will find all the links you need (for subscribing, unsubscribing, changing your settings, and more), at the end of every message posted to the group.

4. No one will be placed on the Jaxfreethought Yahoo group automatically. If you want to join, you need to subscribe. If you are viewing this on line, the below links are "live." If you are typing them in, include the hyphens exactly as shown below.



Instructions

To Subscribe, send a blank message to jaxfreethought-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Post a message, send it to jaxfreethought@yahoogroups.com

To Unsubscribe, send a blank message to jaxfreethought-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Learn more about Yahoo groups in general, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/>

For assistance or further information, please write to list-owner@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org Lastly, the FCFS is grateful to computer-savvy member, Brendan Meehan, for agreeing to moderate our Jaxfreethought Yahoo group.

If you have any questions or need help, please contact Brendan directly at list-owner@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org.



More Rumbblings in Tallahassee: How Politics Corrupts the Teaching of Science

Curtis Wolf

It was not that long ago that I jubilantly celebrated the passage of the new Florida science standards. Just in case you have not heard, the State of Florida recently approved new science standards that identify the scientific concepts that every public high school student should know before he or she graduates. It was a hard-fought victory that survived a creationist on the framers committee (the framers provided guidelines to the writers to assist them when they began the difficult work of writing the standards) and an attempt by a member of the State Board of Education to weaken the standards. For the first time since the first Florida science standards were written, there is a strong endorsement of biological evolution as “the fundamental concept underlying all of biology” in the science standards. Finally, the unpopular and bullied kid has gotten his due.

Well, enjoy the moment while it lasts! Before we knew it, so called “academic freedom bills” were introduced in the Florida House and Senate. These bills were purported to protect from harassment science teachers and students who expressed their doubts about evolution in the classroom. Sure, this sounds fair, but when the bill language is introduced to the real world, it has many unin-

tended consequences.

First, is it harassment to expect teachers to teach the science standards that the State spent considerable time and money to develop? The job of the teacher is not to teach his or her personal viewpoint, but to teach the scholarly consensus on a particular subject. Since the science standards represent the scholarly consensus on matters of science, it would seem obvious to expect the teacher to teach the standards whether or not he or she agrees with them. Since

The bill died at the end of the legislative session because its proponent could not decide on the best way to undermine science education.

principals are expected to ensure that their teachers teach the standards, it is strange that the Florida legislature would then consider undermining the teachers’ ability to do their jobs.

Second, the bill mandated that the student be evaluated on his knowledge of evolution, not on his personal acceptance of the theory. Again, that sounds fair. But the bill language would allow the student to turn in an assignment about evolution with the words, “I do not believe in evolution. God did it all.” And

the teacher may not be able to give him a zero for not doing the assignment.

This is because the bill limited the evaluation of the student’s understanding of evolution to “normal testing procedures.” Does “normal testing procedures” include homework assignments, class projects, and other means of evaluating the student’s understanding of the evolution? Probably not.

Just when I thought that this bill would see the governor’s desk in a matter of weeks, there arose another plot twist that took us all by surprise. Representative Hays who sponsored the bill in the Florida House completely changed the bill. The new version mandated only a “thorough presentation and critical analysis of the scientific theory of evolution.”

Whether this version of the bill is better than the original version is not important (it’s not!). What is important is that it divided the pro-ID legislators into two camps who remained divided until the end. The bill died at the end of the legislative session because its supporters could not decide on the best way to undermine science education. The moral of the story is to never underestimate the ability of your opponents to self destruct.



Pope Benedict XVI vs. Secularism

Fred W. Hill

The Pope is mad as heck and doesn't want the world to take it anymore. Secularism, that is. Pope Benedict XVI thinks there's too much of it these days and that it has been too successful in pushing out religion. As reported in the *New York Daily News* by Melissa Grace ("Pope talks concern over globalization, secularism with religious leaders" 4/19/08), during a recent prayer service at St. Joseph Parish in New York City, he expressed "grave concern in the spread of a secularist ideology that undermines or even rejects transcendent truth." Naturally, as one of those nasty secularists who rejects his alleged truth, I think there's still too much religion being forced on everyone, in one form or another.

Just for starters, there's that "In God We Trust" slogan on our dollars and coins, which I regard as silly because if "we" really did trust in god, we'd do away with our military and police forces and would never see doctors for what ails us, trusting that god will protect us. Then there's the addition of "one nation under God" in our pledge of allegiance. More alarmingly are the various "faith-based initiatives" by which our tax dollars are unconstitutionally used to support religious institutions theoretically engaged in social works for the benefit of all, regardless of faith or lack thereof, albeit often with a heavy dose of proselytizing.

It is hardly surprising that Pope Benedict would prefer to

see far more religion in all aspects of our lives. He is, after all, the Pope, the reputed mortal representative of God and Christ and head of the Catholic Church. Prior to being elected to the Papacy, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he was Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the modern title for the Inquisition, charged with the duty to "promote and safeguard the doctrine of faith and morals throughout the Catholic world," as promulgated by Pope John Paul II in the *Pastor Bonus* on June 28, 1988.

Further, while science, as with religion, can be used for good or evil, it has proven far more useful in truly understanding the actual universe, including our own bodies, than religion ever has.

The tradition, by the way, of Popes taking on new names, as observed by the 11th century Benedictine chronicler Raoul Glaber, began as a "means to palliate their insolent traffic in the election of popes." Once the selection had been made, "they strip him of his own name and give him the name of some great pope so that his own want of merit will be obscured by the glory of his title." (*The Bad Popes*, E. R. Chamberlain, 1969, p. 67). Ratzinger selected his

own new name, in honor of Saint Benedict, founder of the order Glaber served and Benedict XV, who reigned from 1914 to 1922 and vainly prevailed upon the Christian monarchs of Europe to halt the life- and empire-destroying conflict they initiated during his first year. Since his promotion from top enforcer to chief cheerleader for the church, the re-christened Benedict XVI has been waging a campaign to promote the "absolute truth" of Catholicism against both science that excludes consideration of god and relativism that portrays all religions as equally valid.

Which is why Benedict declines to pray with Muslims, something his predecessor, John Paul II, became the first Pope to do in May 2001. However, Benedict visited Turkey, a predominantly Muslim nation, in 2006, initially with the main intent of resolving ancient disputes with Orthodox Christians whose spiritual leader, Patriarch Bartholomew I, resides in Istanbul. An additional purpose was to try to assuage feelings of Muslims aroused by a speech in which Pope Benedict quoted the medieval Emperor Manuel II's reference to Muhammad's teachings as "evil and inhuman."

Contextually, Manuel II, the second to last ruler of the eastern Roman Empire, made his assertion in 1392, when his empire consisted of little more than Constantinople, a city besieged

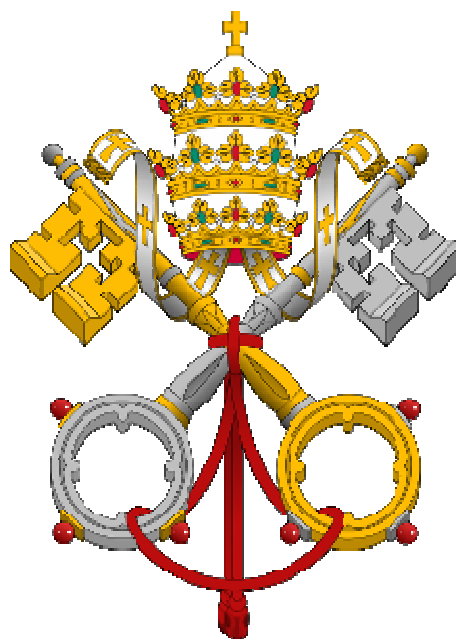


by the Islamic armies of Ottoman Sultan Bayazid. Manuel II also asserted that he was God's chosen secular ruler over all Christendom, managing to offend the other Christian sovereigns that he was desperately attempting to enlist to save his imperial fragment. The main focus of Benedict's speech that caused the furor, however, was not the past or current danger posed by Islam, but by secularism. And it appears yet another purpose of his Turkish trip was to find common ground with Muslims against their alleged common foe—secularists determined to keep religion out of politics.

Oh, of course, Pope Benedict decries religious extremists who resort to terror, and he instructed Muslims of their responsibility to stop the fanatical killers among them. Benedict has also expressed abhorrence of those Christians, even Catholics, who he considers to have strayed too far from the teachings of Christ—both those who resort to terror and those whom he derides for going to church once a week but refraining from "Christian" behavior, such as by engaging in sex outside of marriage, using "unnatural" birth control devices such as condoms, obtaining or performing abortions, perusing "pornography," getting divorced, separating church and state, and doing anything else Catholic doctrine opposes.

In Benedict's view, they've been corrupted by relativism and secularism, tempted by hedonistic thrills. He also holds secularism to blame for the sexual abuses committed by Catholic

priests against children, as well as for the crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis and Communists. He overlooks not only the vast crimes against humanity committed by the Catholic Church itself throughout much of its history when it dominated nearly all of Europe, but also the role of various Christian sects in fostering a climate of mistrust and hatred of Jews that made the Holocaust possible.



Emblem of the Papacy

Yes, several secularist regimes have been atrocious, but religious regimes have much blood on their hands as well, rivers of blood shed in the name of doctrinal purity, bigotry, and greed. And even a cursory review of history will reveal that sexual abuses committed by priests are hardly a modern phenomenon. Several medieval popes, including Pius II, Innocent VIII, Alexander VI and Sergius III, are known to have fathered illegitimate children, even during their papacies.

Benedict XVI himself may not be pure as snow, even if he was required to join the Hitler Youth and was drafted into the Wehrmacht during World War II; his holy house, however, is hardly clean.

Despite the pretensions of theists high and low, Popes and street corner preachers, the holy laws they advocate so stridently were not handed down by any god. Like all rules meant to govern our behavior, they were devised by humans. Whatever its antiquity, the Catholic Bible is no more divine than collections of pagan myths or modern constitutions. At least constitutions are not espoused as expressions of the unalterable will of God; errors can be admitted and amendments added to better promote and legally protect the rights of all people. For all the imperfections of secular governments, and atrocities of a few, they came about due to the repeated failures of and horrors committed by religious-based governments throughout history.

Further, while science, as with religion, can be used for good or evil, it has proven far more useful in truly understanding the actual universe, including our own bodies, than religion ever has. Despite Pope Benedict's assertions, his Catholic doctrines contain no panacea for the ills humans inflict on one another; Europe, after all, was no utopia even when Popes were essentially the Lords of Europe. Secularists recognize that god cannot be depended on; we are on our own and must learn to live as best we can, cooperatively with one another and our environment.



The Scientific Method

Terry Loucks

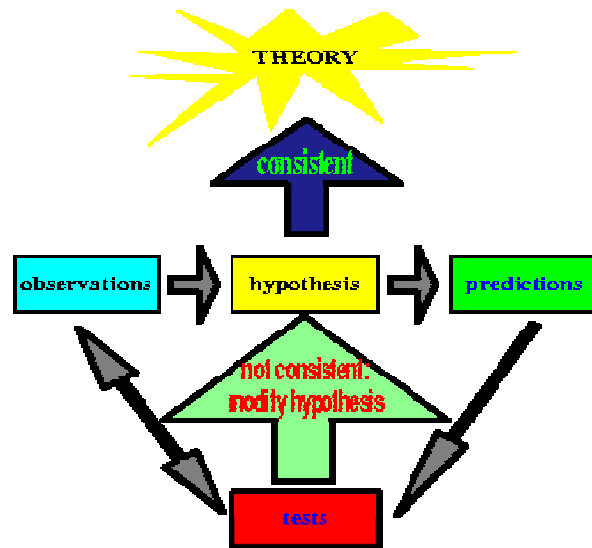
Why should anyone take evolution seriously when it is only a theory, or so goes the misguided argument from those espousing Biblical inerrancy? This belief thrives on ignorance of the scientific facts, ignorance of the scientific method, and confusion of the word *theory* with *hypothesis*.

In this limited space, I cannot convince you of the scientific foundation of evolution. There are ample books and references for that. Instead I will try to explain the meaning of the word “theory” as it is used by scientists in the context of the scientific method. (For more about evolution, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution> and <http://www.nationalacademies.org/evolution/>)

The scientific method refers to the body of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge, or correcting and integrating previous knowledge. It is based on gathering observable, empirical, and measurable evidence subject to specific principles of reasoning. The scientific method consists of the collection of data through observation and experimentation, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method)

First, scientists observe some

aspect of the universe. Next, they invent a tentative description, called a hypothesis, which is consistent with what was observed. They then use the hypothesis to make predictions, which are tested by further observations, and this loop is iterated indefinitely as the theory becomes increasingly sound. It is a process best described with the flow diagram below.



(<http://phyun5.ucr.edu/~wudka/Physics7/Notes/www/node6.html#SECTION0212100000000000>)

Every few years, for example, the theory of gravity according first to Newton and later to Einstein becomes more substantial. Today the gravitational constant is known to six decimal places, in other words 6.67428(67) with appropriate units. Planck’s constant, underlying the quantum theory, is known even better to nine decimal places, or

6.62606896(33) again with appropriate units. The accuracy with which fundamental constants are known is a measure of the soundness of the corresponding theory, and many are amazingly known to ten or more decimal places. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_constant)



So theory is the highest title that can be bestowed by scientists upon a tested body of knowledge. We have the theory of electromagnetism embodied in Maxwell’s equations. We have the theory of gravity, explained first by Newton and later elaborated by Einstein. And we have the theory of the quantum by Heisenberg and Schrödinger.

More recently, we have the newest of the scientific theories, the theory of evolution. As a biological theory, it is not yet embodied with equations and fundamental constants, but its day is coming. For now, it has earned this distinction due to the many links between life forms that have been established through archaeology, paleontology, and molecular genetics. One gains respect for this new field in tomes like *The Ancestor’s Tale* by Richard Dawkins, with the subtitle, *A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution*.

Theories are immortal. Newton's theory of gravity, for example, did not disappear when Einstein's general relativity was presented. All new theories reduce to the earlier one in the special cases where they apply. Einstein's relativity replaced classical theories only for very high speeds and large masses. Similarly, quantum theories replaced classical theories only for very small dimensions like those inside the atom.

Someday, when the next Einstein comes along, unless they have already, a new theory will incorporate both relativity and the quantum theory. Many think it will be some version of the amazing string theory. Whatever it is, it must agree with the immense quantities of existing data in the ranges where these older theories are already proven. In other words, this new theory must add decimal places to the accuracy of our

fundamental constants, not take them away.

So, now you know enough to distinguish between belief and the scientific method, which are opposites. I can, for example, believe that there is a ghost in the next room, but the scientific method, as we have seen, requires us to go into the room, make observations, and publish our results so they can be independently validated.



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* (see website), or ask a greeter 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 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. If you prefer, leave a notation on the sign-in sheet at the back table at one of our monthly meetings.

First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 550591
Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591
(904) 288-6291
<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.

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Long-Range Planning Curtis Wolf 573-3847
CWolf@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org

May Social

Where: OLIVE GARDEN on Philips Highway, near the Avenues Mall.

When: Tuesday May 27, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Proceed directly to our room for the social hour, then we'll order from the menu, as usual.

RSVP: CarrieRen@att.net (or 268-8826) by Tues. a.m., if you plan to go!

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 • <http://www.firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org/>
All inquiries are held in the strictest confidence.

May 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 <i>Book Group</i> | 19 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> |
| 25 <i>Secular Sunday</i> | 26 | 27 <i>Olive Oarden</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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