

FIRST COAST FREETHOUGHT SOCIETY, INC.

An organization of freethinkers and secular humanists supporting free inquiry, education, and community in the Northeast Florida area

Our Motto: “To Question is the Answer.”

Post Office Box 550591, Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591

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The First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.

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The First Coast

FreeThinker



Newsletter of the First Coast Freethought Society

November 2012

Volume 11, Issue 11

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"A skeptic is one who is willing to question any claim to truth, asking for clarity in definition, consistency in logic, and adequacy of evidence."

Paul Kurtz

Earl Coggins

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life issued a report of the results of a religious affiliation survey conducted in the United States by the Pew Research Center June 28th through July 9th, 2012. The poll asked the question: *What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Ortho-*

dox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular? The chart below gives a breakdown of the survey results.

in the fine print under the table. <grin> (And yes,



I realize grammar rules dictate the use of lower case for those words, but it is still disturbing that we are the people of the lower case world). Another interesting aspect of the data is the breakdown of white and black Protestants. Whites are labeled as either evangelical or mainline, while blacks are all lumped together as Protestant.

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"The goal for me is to understand, recognize, appreciate, and embrace the diversity within the free-thought movement."

Of particular interest to me was the lack of capitalization for atheist, agnostic, something else, and nothing in particular

November 2012 Meeting

"The Best Speech Ever...Really."

Or, why America is smart enough to have left plenty of room for improvement.

A Free Speech by Ken Hurley, Director, Civication, Inc.

Monday, November 19, 2012, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

In the Sanctuary, upper parking lot level • Doors open at 6:00
Unitarian Universalist Church • 7405 Arlington Expressway • Jacksonville, FL

Humanist Book Discussion Group



When: 2:00 p.m., the first Sunday of each month

Where: Books-A-Million, 9400 Atlantic Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32225

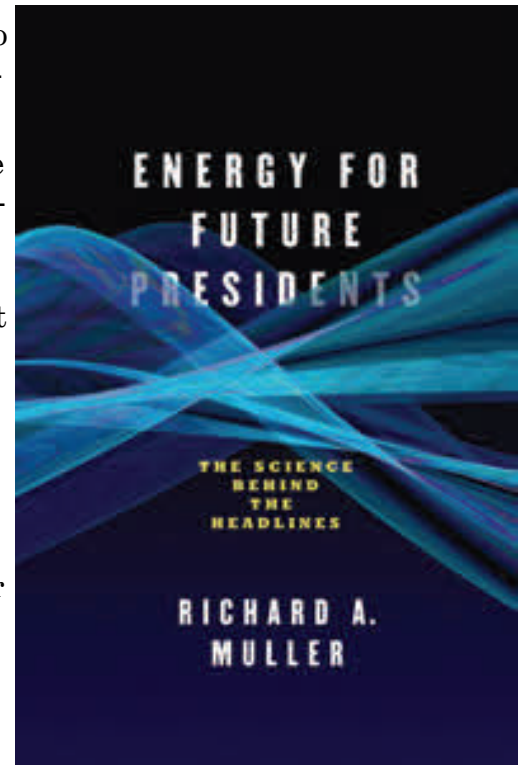
What: Books planned for discussion:

- December 2, 2012 - *Energy for Future Presidents*, by Richard A. Muller
- January 5, 2013 - *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Books may be found in the library, purchased from local book stores, or purchased online. The First Coast Freethought Society will receive a small remuneration from your purchase (at no additional cost to you) if you first go to <http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org> and then click the link to Amazon.com for your purchase.

The author of *Physics for Future Presidents* returns to educate all of us on the most crucial conundrum facing the nation: energy.

The near-meltdown of Fukushima, the upheavals in the Middle East, the BP oil rig explosion, and the looming reality of global warming have reminded the president and all U.S. citizens that nothing has more impact on our lives than the supply of and demand for energy. Its procurement dominates our economy and foreign policy more than any other factor. But the “energy question” is more confusing, contentious, and complicated than ever before. We need to know if nuclear power will ever really be safe. We need to know if solar and wind power will ever really be viable. And we desperately need to know if the natural gas deposits in Pennsylvania are a windfall of historic proportions or a false hope that will create more problems than solutions. Richard A. Muller provides all the answers in this must-read guide to our energy priorities now and in the coming years.



(From the book description by publisher, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.)

For more information, contact Herb Gerson at 904-363-6446, or 12herbert30gerson@bellsouth.net.

Monthly Social

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

When: **Tuesday November 27, 2012** at 6:00 p.m. Proceed directly to our room. **Drinks at 6:00. Dinner at 7:00.** (Order from the menu.)

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

(President's Message, cont'd from page 1)
 What's up with that? Sadly, Unitarian-Universalists were not mentioned among the listed religions.

Nothing in particular is an interesting viewpoint, for sure, and I am intrigued by it. The technicalities in how you interpret a "nothing in particular" point-of-view will get you entangled in as much red tape as you wish to dispense, but I'm not sure it's necessary, nor should it be our goal to dissect it. You can read the full Pew Research report at <http://www.pewforum.org/Unaffiliated/es-on-the-rise.aspx#who>.

The goal for me is to understand, recognize, appreciate, and embrace the diversity within the freethought movement. "Herding cats" is not too far off the mark when describing the pitfalls of organizing freethinkers into a cohesive group, especially when naming such a group. The various views and positions among freethinkers regarding social, political, moral, ethical, and economic issues are diverse. Finding a name for our society that would encompass all of the many attributes of people living without religion was a long, arduous, thought-provoking task. I hope I don't disappoint anyone by saying the *First Coast Nothing In Particular Society* was not on the list of choices for a moniker when this society was founded, although based on the Pew Research data, perhaps it should have been.

A few more interesting aspects from the study:

- Americans ages 18-22, fully one-third (34%) are religiously unaffiliated.
- Generation Xers and Baby Boomers also have become more religiously unaffiliated in recent years. In 2012, 21% of Gen Xers and 15% of Baby Boomers describe themselves as religiously unaffiliated, up slightly (but by statistically

the early 1970s to about 8% in the past decade. However, the overwhelming majority of the "nones" were brought up in a religious tradition. The new Pew Research Center/Religion & Ethics News-Weekly survey finds that about three-quarters (74%) of unaffiliated adults were raised with some affiliation.

- There is evidence of a gradual decline in religious commitment. In 2003, for instance, 25% of U.S. adults indicated they seldom or never attend religious services. By 2012, that number had ticked up 4 points, to 29%.

- The religiously unaffiliated are much more likely than the public overall to say that churches and other religious organizations are too concerned with money and power, too focused on rules, and too involved in politics.

- The religiously unaffiliated are less inclined than Americans overall to say they often think about the meaning and purpose of life (53% vs. 67%).

Of significant interest are the numbers generated by the research. Among the unaffiliated, atheists number 2.4%. Agnostics are higher at 3.3%. The significant number is staring you right in the face. It turns out that "nothing in particular" is hardly

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Trends in Religious Affiliation, 2007-2012

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	07-12 Change
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Christian	78	77	77	76	75	73	-5
Protestant	53	52	51	51	50	48	-5
White evang.	21	19	20	19	18	19	-2
White mainline	18	18	17	17	17	15	-3
Black Protestant	8	8	9	9	9	8	--
Other minority Prot.	6	6	6	6	6	6	--
Catholic	23	22	23	23	23	22	-1
Mormon	2	2	2	2	2	2	--
Orthodox	1	1	1	1	1	1	--
Other faith	4	5	5	5	5	6	+2
Unaffiliated	15.3	16.0	16.8	17.4	18.6	19.6	+4.3
Atheist	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.4	+0.8
Agnostic	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.3	+1.2
Nothing in particular	11.6	11.9	12.4	12.9	13.4	13.9	+2.3
Don't know	2	2	2	2	1	2	--
	100	100	100	100	100	100	

N 9,443,29,035 22,159 24,764 19,377 17,010
 Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007-2012. In the change column, figures that are statistically significant are shown in bold. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
 Question wording: What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?
 PEW RESEARCH CENTER

significant margins) from 18% and 12%, respectively, since 2007.

- Young adults are less likely to be affiliated than their elders, but the GSS shows that the percentage of Americans who were raised without an affiliation has been rising gradually, from about 3% in

Reflections on Football: Parting with a Piece of America

Joque Soskis

Like virtually all Americans, I grew up on football. I was never big enough or athletic enough to play in high school or college, but vacant lots in our neighborhood were always the sites of football games carried on by an improbable assortment of kids of widely varying sizes, shapes, ages and aptitudes, utilizing a bewildering and shifting assortment of locally developed rules and regulations. In all likelihood, this pastime was a major factor in developing us into acceptable citizens, teaching us the value of a rough-hewn form of democratic decision-making, peaceful (mostly) dispute resolution, and willingness to endure hardship (e.g. sandspurs in the back) in the pursuit of team victory.

Lacking helmets and pads, we played a naturally protective form of football. We blocked and tackled the ball-carrier, but we had to do both in ways that avoided serious injury to ourselves and our opponents. There were lots of bruises and skinned knees and elbows, and even the occasional sprain, but each of the parties to the transaction was equally likely to suffer, and so each exercised a measure of restraint.

Today, however, we confront irrefutable scientific proof of the devastating effects of playing football organized at the high school and college levels, and even in Pop Warner leagues, to say nothing of the pros. The use

of high-tech padding, and helmets with visors, has created a false sense of invulnerability, the feeling that one would neither injure the adversary nor oneself, in what appears to outside observers as bone-jarring collisions.

In fact, the significant injuries were not to the bones, which normally heal uneventfully, but, ironically, to an organ encased in bone: the brain. With each passing revelation from medical science, it now becomes more difficult to deny or ignore the grave risk of profound damage to the

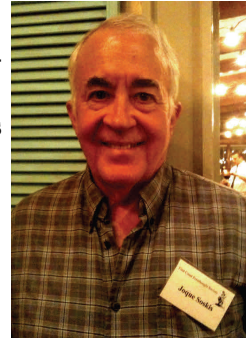
“With each passing revelation from medical science, it now becomes more difficult to deny or ignore the grave risk of profound damage to the brain resulting from the numerous concussions endured by [football] players ...”

brain resulting from the numerous concussions endured by high school, college and professional players, even in practice.

Sooner or later, we can expect wise parents, whose aspirations for their children include lives and careers which require an unimpaired brain, to forbid their children to participate. In living rooms and around dining room tables across the country, especially (but not exclusively) in the South, this is not going to be a peaceful discussion. But faced with the possibility of their child being forced to drop out in the middle of the third year of medical school, many parents are going to make the tough call.

I contend that all is not lost.

An election year in which demonizing all things European seems to be about the only talking point some politicians are able to find is probably not the best time for this discussion, but European football, here known as soccer, may be the saving alternative.



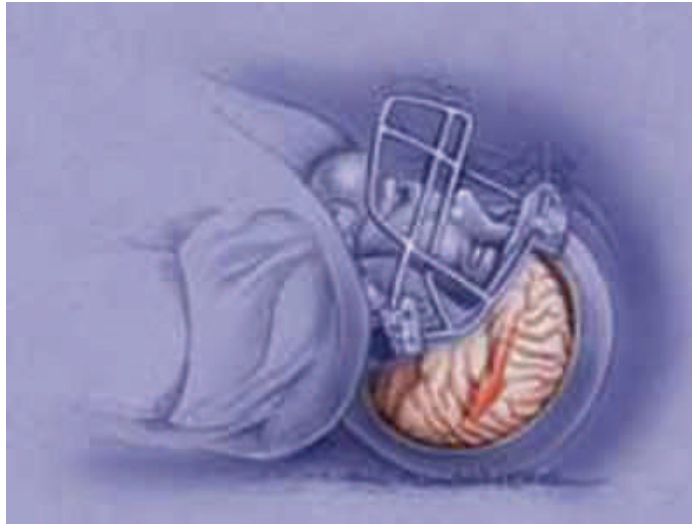
Some things to consider:

- A. Soccer is much better exercise than football, and one must be in much better shape to play. This is for several reasons. First, the soccer field is between 65 to 90 percent larger than a football field, and all of it is in constant use. Hence, players must run much farther than in football, where 100 yards is the theoretical maximum. Second, soccer games are 90 minutes long, as opposed to 60 minutes in football. Third, soccer is played continuously. Everyone runs up and down the field, in more or less constant motion, for 45 minutes. The clock does not stop for injuries, substitutions, or when the ball changes hands. (The only brief respite for players comes when one of the rare—and rarely serious—injuries requires the trainers to examine the injured player, who then normally gets up and resumes play.) Then, following a 15-minute half-time intermission, there ensues another 45 minutes of uninterrupted play. In football, by con-

trast, a play is run, lasting between 3 and perhaps 10 or 12 seconds, following which everyone stands around, rests, and holds a meeting for 25 seconds. Fourth, every player in soccer must “cover the field.” By contrast, there are positions in American football in which the longest run the player makes is from the locker room out onto the field at the beginning of the game. Typically, a defensive tackle’s activity is not radically different from that of a Sumo wrestler. While backs, receivers, and defensive ends run numerous sprints in the course of the game (interspersed with the above-mentioned huddles), linemen often take only a few steps per play all game long.

B. Soccer requires all players to have more skills than does football. This is because the football players’ positions are far more specialized. A lineman in football need not be particularly adept at passing the ball, receiving a pass, handing off the football, or functioning in the open field. Unless he is fortunate enough to recover a fumble, he will never touch the ball during regulation play. Kickers are seldom on the field except to kick, and even then the punter is often not the same person as the field goal kicker or the kick-off specialist. All members of a soccer team, on the other hand, must be able to move the ball in the open field, protect it from opposing players, pass to and receive passes from teammates, attempt to steal the ball from opponents and, if the opportunity presents itself, shoot a goal.

C. Soccer discourages obesity. “Bulking up” is encouraged for at least five of the eleven positions in football. A 350-lb. lineman is obviously more formidable, all other things being equal, than a 280-lb. adversary. As the potential rewards of playing the game (such as college “scholarships,” and lucrative professional contracts) increase, so does the temptation to place immediate playing advantage above long-term health. In soccer, there is no advantage to extra bulk, and the prospect of



carrying it up and down the field for 45 minutes may be sufficient motivation to pass up the extra French fries.

D. The cost of mounting a soccer program is far less than for a football program. A field marked with paint, two goals made of PVC pipe and some netting, shin guards, shoes, shirts and shorts, and you are ready to go. In the present recessionary climate, when even teachers of essential substantive courses are being laid off, such cost savings may begin to appeal to school boards eager to avoid liability for graduating brain-impaired students.

E. Truly comparable programs in soccer for men and

women are quite feasible. In an age when discrimination, even entirely rational discrimination, is widely held to be in questionable taste, it will be cheaper and easier simply to mount equivalent men’s and women’s programs in soccer than to constantly justify enormous expenditures on men’s football by pointing to TV revenues it generates.

In summary, it may be possible to read something into two current trends. First, despite recent efforts to interest Europeans in American football, it remains little more than a curiosity outside the U.S. and is catching on, if at all, only gradually. Meanwhile, the popularity of soccer the world over is well known. Second, soccer seems to be gaining popularity in the U.S. at a much higher rate. It can be played inexpensively, girls and boys (or men and women) can both participate, the risks of injury are trivial by comparison, and it is better exercise.

About the only problem will be figuring out how to profitably extract TV revenues from soccer. No commercial network will be eager to broadcast 45 minutes of uninterrupted play (twice in the same night!) in return for airing 15 minutes of ads all at one time. Perhaps the rules will have to be modified to install some 60-second time-outs during each half, or games may be video-taped, and then aired with cut-ins for ads. Given the ingenuity of American broadcasters and cable operators, I’m betting that they will find a way.



Should Religious Institutions or Government Solve Our Social Problems?

Susan Ert-Ker

The question arose from a conversation I was having with a friend I have known for over 30 years. We grew up in similar neighborhoods. We both worked hard at our jobs. Since the beginning of our friendship, I have always felt we had similar core values. She recently commented about her belief that churches and not the government should feed the homeless. I was shocked.

Some of you may think the question I posed (in the title) is a false dichotomy logical fallacy. Some might say no one should solve social problems BUT I think that is too cold hearted.

For whatever reason (nurture, nature, free will or determinism) some people do lose their jobs. Are we (as a society) going to let them starve in the streets?

From my point of view, all adults should pull their weight in our society. We should all work. Perhaps if you're a trust fund kid, your work would be to volunteer because you don't need the money. I don't think we should exercise our free will by living off the efforts of others without making a contribution ourselves. To live in a society without giving back seems unethical to me.

Even with that said, I do not want to see people die in the street for lack of shelter or food. I disagree with Michelle Bachmann who said "Self reliance means, if anyone will not work, neither should he eat." I also want a safety net for those that hit bad luck. I also want programs in place that help with the educational desires of those that have the unfortunate luck of not being born into a rich generous family.



If you agree with me even on one of those items, then the next question is how do we solve those social problems? My friend (if I correctly understood her) thinks churches can solve those problems. She thinks churches have been solving those problems since the beginning of our country.

Even if I were to agree with her that churches meet the social needs of many people and can motivate people to volunteer to help others, I would still disagree with her conclusion that government has no role to play. At least my friend did agree with me that churches should NOT receive taxpayer money.

She is (like me) voting NO on amendment eight.

Here are some of the reasons why I think it should be our government's role (not churches' role) to solve our social problems:

- I think everyone should contribute to help solve the problems. Tax contributions are a way to insure that everyone is contributing to the cost of solutions.
- Government has more resources available to make sure that long-term goals can be reached.
- Government can have oversights to curb abuse.
- Government would offer the help regardless of religious affiliation.

It would be nice if churches would want to HELP with solving social problems. The leaders could encourage people to volunteer at public schools, public hospitals, and public libraries. I fear that the church's motive for wanting to TAKE OVER social welfare projects would be proselytizing (rather than a pure motive of helping others).

I acknowledge that we all
(Continued on page 7)



In Memoriam: Paul Kurtz (1925 - 2012)

A letter by Jim Peterson

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, one of the greatest voices of American Humanism was stilled. Paul Kurtz died at his home on the evening of October 20, 2012. He was 86.

He was founder and chairman of The Institute for Science and Human Values and its journal, *The Human Prospect: A NeoHumanist Perspective* in June 2010. He was editor in chief of *Free Inquiry* magazine, a publication of the Council for Secular Humanism. He was co-president of the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU). He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Humanist Laureate, president of the International Academy of Humanism, and Honorary Associate of Rationalist International. As a member of the American Humanist Association, he contributed to the writ-

ing of Humanist Manifesto's II and 2000, and was editor of *The Humanist*, 1967-1978. He was Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the State University of New York at Buffalo, He was unbelievably prolific as both an



influential writer, having published over 800 articles or reviews and authored and edited over 50 books such as *The Transcendental Temptation*, *Forbid-*

den Fruit: The Ethics of Secularism, The Courage to Become, and Multi-Secularism: A New Agenda,

and many others. His published bibliography of writings from 1952 to 2003 runs over 79 pages!

Kurtz founded the publishing house Prometheus Books in 1969. He was also the founder and past chairman of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (formerly (CSICOP), the Council for Secular Humanism, and the Center for Inquiry.

Much will be said of his life, accomplishments, and personality in coming days; but we already know that he will be greatly missed.

Jim Peterson is President of the Humanist Society of the Suncoast, in Tampa



(Continued from page 6)

worry about efficiency when we contemplate how much we're paying in taxes. And I am very grateful for people who want to volunteer to help keep government efficient. I find nothing unethical in asking everyone in a society to pay taxes. There is an article about the ethics of taxation in issue 90 of the magazine, *Phi-*

losophy Now. <http://philosophynow.org/issues/90/>

"I fear that the church's motive for wanting to TAKE OVER social welfare projects would be proselytizing (rather than a pure motive of helping others)."

The Ethics of Taxation The article quotes both Robert Nozick's

book *Anarchy, State and Utopia* as well as Liam Murphy and Thomas Nagel's book *The Myth of Ownership: Taxes and Justice*. The article talks about utilitarianism, deontology and virtue ethics. The author of the article (Richard Baron) states why each ethicist would say taxes are OK for certain purposes.



Free Will?

By Joe Varon

I know your god is supposed to be
Perfect in every way,
With an unknowable master blueprint
That he oversees each day.

He loves the good in each of you;
But understands the wicked - still
It's all part of his mysterious plan,
The enigma of "Free Will"



But when I see corruption or child abuse,
I think, "For heaven's sake,
Is god's plan really that perfect?
Or is "Free Will" his biggest mistake?"

"In my infinite wisdom and benevo-
lence, I grant you free will to do
whatever you like. If you dare to
exercise free will, however, you will
be damned for all eternity. But re-
member, I love you. Now get down
on your knees and tell me how
wonderful I am again."



The FCFS Is Seeking an Auditor!

The First Coast Free thought Society is seeking a person to perform an internal audit on the FCFS 2010 books. A nonprofit audit is a process that provides reasonable assurance that good stewardship is being used in handling and accounting for the funds and other assets of an organization. A nonprofit audit may be external (performed by an outside Certified Public Accountant) or internal (performed by business people in the organization who understand financial management and are not related in any way to the Financial Secretary or Treasurer).

An audit is the best way to 1) protect financial officers from unwarranted charges, 2) build trust and confidence of financial supporters, 3) set habits of fiscal responsibility, 4) assure donors that their contributions are being used as intended, and 5) provide checks and balances for sums received and expended. Remember, an audit is not a reflection on the competence or integrity of the financial staff, but is a routine procedure designed to protect both the staff and the nonprofit. If interested, let Carrie know! carrieren@att.net For very complete information about nonprofit audit procedures, please visit <http://www.freechurchaccounting.com/churchaudit.html>.



(President's Message, continued from page 3)

nothing in particular—a whopping 13.9%.

The “nothing in particular” category is nearly 6 times that of people comfortable with the label “atheist” and

4 times that of the “agnostic” label. What does it mean? It could mean that a significant number of people have gone beyond agnosticism and athe-

ism—gone beyond the “without gnosticism” and “without theism” labels and are perfectly content with their nebulous tag.

This could be the new heart of the freethought movement—and it looks as if the new heart is not

“poles apart” from the old heart. The new heart is agreeing with the old heart in that the world can no longer be defined by theistic models originating thousands of years ago, but the new heart apparently has no need for a defi-

important freethinkers.

Another interesting statement from the report: The continued growth of the religiously unaffiliated is one of several indicators suggesting that the U.S. public gradually may be growing less religious. Does that mean one day we will have presidential candidates reminiscent of Margaret Sanger and Robert G. Ingersoll? It appears our country is making discernible strides in that direction, although we're still a long way off.

The “nothing in particular” crowd spoke out and said I

am not an agnostic, I am not an atheist, and I am not a theist. They may think of themselves as nothing in particular, but I, for one, think of them as a force to be reckoned with.

am not an agnostic, I am not an atheist, and I am not a theist. They may think of themselves as nothing in particular, but I, for one, think of them as a force to be reckoned with.



Ongoing FCFS Activities

Dinners for Doubters: Sign up to attend or to host a dinner yourself. If a dinner is scheduled, sign-up sheets will be found at the back table at the monthly meetings. For details, **see the website**, <http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org>, or **ask a greeter** at the back table, at a meeting.

Second Harvest Second Saturday: On the **2nd Saturday of every month**, 10:00 a.m. to noon, join FCFS members and JAM (Jacksonville Atheist Meetup) group members, to volunteer at the Second Harvest North Florida food bank warehouse, 1502 Jessie Street, to help distribute food to the less fortunate in North FL. See <http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org> or call Fed Hill, 904-358-3610.

Secular Sunday Morning in the Park: Freethinkers, let's get acquainted and enjoy intelligent conversation the **4th Sunday of every month** (unless inclement weather prevails) at 10 a.m. until ? under the pavilion at Losco Park, 10851 Hood Rd., S., Jacksonville 32257, between Shad and Losco Roads. For directions, call Beth Perry at 904-733-5489 or Google the address. We generally provide coffee. Bring a breakfast snack and **a chair or two**. Note, if it's too hot under the pavilion, we take our chairs to some trees with a nice breeze. Mark your calendar. We hope to see you there!

Caring Tree: If a telephone call, flowers, or a sympathy card to a member is in order, please contact **Judy Hankins** at 904-724-8188, or e-mail her at info@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org.

First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.
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Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591
904-419-8826
<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.

For other activities besides monthly meetings, please see the website, brochure, or newsletter!

FCFS 2012 Board Members

President	Earl Coggins	521-5039
Vice President	Carrie Renwick	268-8826
Secretary	Don DuClose	388-3125
Treasurer	Stephen Peek	742-5390
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At-Large	Richard Keene	386-1121
At Large	Vacant	

Other Appointments

Parliamentarian	Mark Renwick	616-2896
E-mail Secretary	Carrie Renwick	268-8826

Committees and Chairs

Editorial	Fred Hill	358-3610
Community Outreach	Richard Keene	386-1121
Finance	Stephen Peek	742-5390
Fundraising	Carrie Renwick	268-8826
Membership	Judy Hankins	724-8188
Publicity	Carrie Renwick	268-8826
Website	Mark Renwick	616-2896

First Coast FreeThinker

The *First Coast FreeThinker* is published for all freethinkers and potential freethinkers. Nonmembers may receive the e-mail version indefinitely. Nonmembers may receive three hard-copy issues free, after which they must join the FCFS to continue to receive hard copy.

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. The *FreeThinker* is intended to convey ideas that stimulate thought and promote discussion on a variety of subjects.

Information for Contributors

We welcome submissions. Articles for consideration should be submitted via e-mail to the e-mail address shown below. Contributors who cannot submit manuscripts electronically may send them to Fred Hill, 1817 Egner St., Jacksonville, FL 32206. The

deadline for time-sensitive submissions is the THIRD SATURDAY of each month for the following month's issue.

We prefer articles no longer than 1,000 words. Longer articles will be evaluated in terms of whether their importance and degree of interest to our readers warrant publication.

Subject matter must tie in with freethought or with the Affirmations of Humanism (found on our website). All accepted manuscripts are subject to editorial modification. Our style guide is *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Manuscript submissions cannot be returned. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all quotations and for supplying complete references where applicable.

E-mail Address for Submissions

Editor@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org

ADVERTISING RATES: Eighth-page (business card size) \$25.00, quarter-page \$50.00, half-page \$75.00, and whole page \$100.

To advertise, contact Fred Hill at 904-3610, or
Editor@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org

First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 550591, Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591 • (904) 419-8826

2013 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? Comments? _____			

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.) | | |

Do you object to your name appearing on our membership list, distributed to other members? Yes No

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

- General member Committee member Officer Financial supporter

- Annual dues cover the period of January 1 through December 31.
- The initial dues for new members joining in July through September are half the regular rates. Membership extends to the end of the current calendar year.
- The initial dues for new members joining in October through December are the full, regular rates. Membership extends to the end of the following calendar year.

***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
904-419-8826 • CarrieRen@att.net • <http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org>
All inquiries are held in the strictest confidence.

Upcoming Freethought Events of Interest on the First Coast

- Monday November 19 FCFS Monthly Meeting, Jacksonville - 6:30 p.m.
Sunday November 25 FCFS Secular Sunday in the Park, Jacksonville - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday November 27 FCFS Monthly Social at Olive Garden, Jacksonville - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday December 2 FCFS Humanist Book Discussion Group, Jacksonville - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday December 8 FCFS/JAM Volunteer at Second Harvest - 10 a.m.
Monday December 10 JAM Meetup at European Street Café in San Marco - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday December 15 FCFS Deadline to submit articles for Jan. 2013 *FreeThinker*
Monday December 17 FCFS Monthly Meeting, Jacksonville - 6:30 p.m.

First Coast Freethought Society (FCFS) • <http://www.firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org/>
Jacksonville Atheist, Agnostic, Secular Meetup Group (JAM) • <http://www.jaxatheists.com/>
Northeast Florida Coalition of Reason (NeFCoR) • <http://NorthEastFloridaCoR.org/>

The FCFS is a proud member of the Humanists of Florida Association
and the Northeast Florida Coalition of Reason.

Meet Our November Speaker: Ken Hurley

Carrie Renwick



Ken Hurley is Co-founder and Director of Civication, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting civics education and civil responsibility. He is also a long-time friend and supporter of the First Coast Freethought Society and one of its most popular speakers.

Ken has had a successful career in a variety of businesses and now enjoys the freedom offered to pursue effective positive differences in the lives of others. Ken speaks frequently on constitutional issues, civil rights, and civic education. Ken is the creator of a public-interest, television show entitled, “civil discourse,” now hosted by Lisa Clarson, where controversial issues are discussed in a civil manner. “Let us know, friend or foe—we want you on the show” is its slogan. Ken is also the creator and writer of a unique television program called, ACCESS News where public-policy issues are discussed in American Sign Language, English, and captioned. Ken brings to Civication, Inc. astute business acumen, a strong commitment, and a desire to create lasting success in an organization that will effectively address the needs of others. You can visit Civication and ACCESS News at <http://www.civication.org/access-news>.

Ken’s talk tonight, a ‘free speech,’ is titled, “The Best Speech Ever... Really” (or, why America is smart enough to have left plenty of room for improvement). A lively question and answer session is sure to follow.

