

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
Website: <http://FirstCoastFreethoughtSociety.org>

Telephone: 904-419-8826
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The First Coast

FreeThinker



Newsletter of the First Coast Freethought Society

March 2013

Volume 12, Issue 3

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"The notion that faith in Christ is to be rewarded by an eternity of bliss, while a dependence upon reason, observation, and experience merits everlasting pain, is too absurd for refutation, and can be relieved only by that unhappy mixture of insanity and ignorance called 'faith'."

—Robert Ingersoll

Fred W. Hill

Clearwater is a pleasant little coastal city located in the Tampa Bay area with the dubious distinction of being home to the headquarters, or "Flag Land Base," of Scientology, the previous century's most successful venture in merging sci-fi fantasy, faith, and fraud for

massive profits. More reassuring from a free-thought perspective, there are also

many atheist and humanist meet-up groups in the region, all affiliated with the Center for Inquiry Tampa which organized a Darwin Day event

held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Clearwater last February 9. Thus, I trekked across Florida to both visit with my father, who also happens to live there, and to honor the



204th anniversary of Darwin's birth by checking out the event.

CFI Tampa Bay Branch Coordinator Rick O'Keefe gave the opening remarks and introduced the guest speakers: Jim Strayer, a biologist and educator, who has given numerous lectures on Charles Darwin and evolution; Ryan Cragun, a former

"Darwin formulated his own ideas, that all modern species evolved from prior species over vast expanses of time via the blind, algorithmic process of natural selection."

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(Continued on page 3)

March 2013 Meeting

"New Revelations in the JFK Assassination Case"

David R. Simon, Ph.D., Research Fellow (Ret.)

Institute of Public and International Policy

University of North Florida

Monday, March 18, 2013, 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

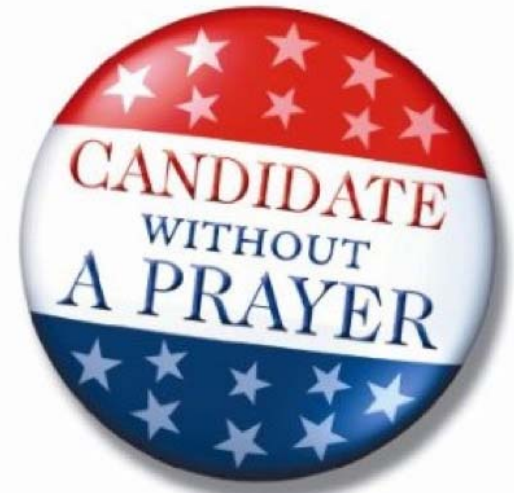
What: Books planned for discussion:

- April 7, 2013 - *Candidate Without a Prayer*, by Herb Silverman
- May 5, 2013 - Any magazine article or book by Chris Hedges

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.

In this deeply revealing and engaging autobiography, Herb Silverman tells his iconoclastic life story. He takes the reader from his childhood as an Orthodox Jew in Philadelphia, where he stopped fasting on Yom Kippur to test God's existence, to his adult life in the heart of the Bible Belt, where he became a legendary figure within America's secular activist community and remains one of its most beloved leaders. Never one to shy from controversy, Silverman relates many of his high-profile battles with the Religious Right, including his decision to run for governor of South Carolina to challenge the state's constitutional provision that prohibited atheists from holding public office. *Candidate Without a Prayer* offers an intimate portrait of a central player in today's increasingly heated culture wars. It will be sure to charm both believers and nonbelievers alike, and will lead all those who care about the separation of church and state to give thanks.

(Product description, Pitchstone Publishing, 2012)



*An Autobiography of a Jewish
Atheist in the Bible Belt*

HERB SILVERMAN

Foreword by RICHARD DAWKINS

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 March 26, 2013 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!

(“Darwin Day”, cont’d from page 1)

Mormon and current sociologist of religion, with an emphasis on Mormonism and the nonreligious; and Sean Faircloth, a former Maine legislator, past executive director of the Secular Coalition for America, and current Director of Strategy and Policy for the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science.

Jim Strayer opened with a primer on Charles Darwin’s life and work, breakthroughs, noting that in contrast to those who begin with an idea and then seek evidence to support it, Darwin began as a collector and then came up with an idea to make sense of it, one of the greatest ideas in history. His collection began as a hobby with beetles, but eventually included all manner of fauna, flora, and fossils he found during his global trip as a “gentleman companion” to Captain Fitzroy on HMS Beagle from 1831 to 1836. As Strayer noted, Darwin was set to become an Anglican priest, having failed at a half-hearted endeavor to follow his father into the medical profession.

However, he had shown a keen interest and aptitude in what was then called natural theology, the study of religion based on reason and ordinary experience rather than revelations. Initially, Darwin fully accepted William Paley’s teleo-

logical arguments for the existence of God, an early variation of the intelligent design argument. However, during his many land excursions on South America, Australia, and numerous islands, most famously the Galapagos, Darwin saw platypuses that appeared to have both mammalian and reptilian features, found sea shells embedded in rocks high in the Andes, experienced an earthquake that raised the land, and noted



Jim Strayer, Ryan Cragun & Sean Faircloth

mockingbirds with noticeable variations on separate islands but all also resembling those in Chile.

Ultimately, Paley’s arguments that the apparent complex designs of living things necessitate the existence of an intelligent designer foundered on an objective analysis of the evidence. Realizing that, Darwin formulated his own ideas, that all modern species evolved from prior species over vast expanses of time via the blind, algorithmic process of natural selection. Modern science has filled in gaps in Darwin’s knowledge and corrected some of his erro-

neous assumptions, but has otherwise vindicated his insights.

Professor Cragun, author of *Could I Vote for a Mormon for President?* (2012) and *What You Don’t Know About Religion (but Should)* (2013), discussed the relationship of religion and science in terms of the dimensions of time and specific religions. From pre-history until roughly 500 C.E., the relationship was essentially neutral, in large part because there was relatively little science that contradicted the prominent theologies, and with few exceptions, scientific observations that belied the dogma of the day were treated as less of a threat to the social order than were contrary philosophical or theological ideas, as the example of Socrates

attests to. Over the following 500 years, there was little scientific advancement in Christendom, then dominant in Europe, but much in the early Islamic world where, after the initial expansion from Arabia over much of the former Greco-Roman and Persian empires, Muslims studied and expanded upon the observations and discoveries of ancient Greek scientists. During the first few centuries after the Protestant Reformation of the 1500s, Protestants tended to view science far more favorably than did Catho-

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President's Message - March 2013

Earl Coggins

"He was himself no saint, but rather one of those sinners who had done the world more good than all its saints."

So goes a quote from a book I am reading called *Voltaire: A Sketch of his Life and Works* by J.M. Wheeler and G.W. Foote.

Voltaire is (for me) an example of one of a few people in human history who worked ceaselessly to advance free-thinking, but as it is with so many causes, his work was merely a subset of a bigger and grander set of concerns. In my eyes, Voltaire was a quintessential humanist, dedicating his entire life to promoting and advancing practically all of the aspects of humanism. Voltaire promoted many ideas in the Statement of Principles listed on the First Coast Freethought Society's website. His defense of human and civil rights, justice and fairness, democracy, the need for an open and pluralistic society, reason, science, philosophy, separation of

state and church, freedom of religion, and artistic expression was insatiable and voracious.

Voltaire was born Francois-Marie Arouet. He started his life on November 21st, 1694, and it ended May 30th, 1778. For someone on the run and one step ahead of prison and possible death most of his life, Voltaire lived a very long, prosperous life. He was the son of an attorney in a no-

"Voltaire was a quintessential humanist, dedicating his entire life to promoting and advancing practically all of the aspects of humanism."

ble family with four siblings.

Voltaire's father wanted his son to become a lawyer, but as most of us know, that was not to be. He was educated at the College Louis-le-Grand. Voltaire had no wish to become a lawyer like his father. He wanted to be a writer, which he hid from his father, writing poetry instead of pursuing a career in law. Even while away to study law, he continued writing,

expanding from poetry to essays and historical studies.

Voltaire became a provocative and satirical writer with a wit sharper than anyone I could dare think of as his equal. Christopher Hitchens comes to mind, but as much as I like Hitchens, Voltaire (in my mind) has no equal.



In his day, a person could be arrested without cause and sentenced to life in prison without a trial. It was not uncommon for anyone writing, printing, or selling any work criticizing or attacking religion or royal authority to be threatened with a prison sentence or death.

Voltaire was easily aroused into activism when artistic expression or freedom of thought was being put down, as it typically was most of his life. One particular event close to his heart was a group of people involved with the creation of *Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*

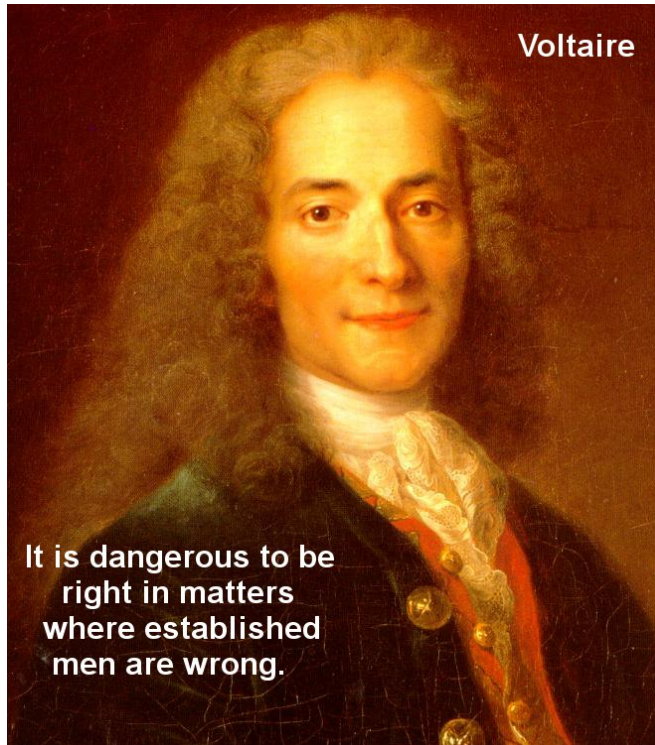
(*Encyclopedia or a Systematic Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts and Crafts*).

Voltaire wrote the section on history. The attempted suppression of *Encyclopédie* would be the catalyst for many of Voltaire's writings. Denis Diderot described the *Encyclopédie's* goal as a means for changing the way people think, which back then was an immediate reason to censor and suppress its publication and dissemination. Add to that the fact that the *Encyclopédie* listed theology as a subset under philosophy, and its fate was sealed.

Things have gotten better, but we still have a lot

of work to do. Voltaire carried the freethought torch his entire life, risking his

torch ablaze and protect it from those who want it extinguished forever.



The names of the books, writers, and publishers have changed, but that is about it. Harry Potter, *The Satanic Verses*, and a list longer than what I can fit into this article are banned and burned every year around the world.

What is of particular interest is the banning, burning, and censorship of books in the United States. After all, aren't we supposed to be the so-called leader of

the free world?

life for it. We who embrace freethought and humanism must together keep that



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.

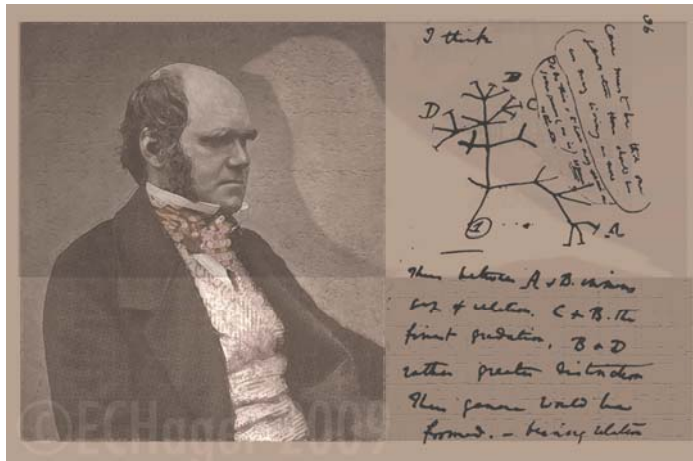
Secular Sunday Morning in the Park: Freethinkers, let's get acquainted and enjoy intelligent conversation the **4th Sunday of every month** (unless inclement weather prevails) at 10 a.m. until ? under the pavilion at Losco Park, 10851 Hood Rd., S., Jacksonville 32257, between Shad and Losco Roads. For 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.

(“Darwin Day,” *Cont’d from page 3*)
 ics who were too slavishly subservient to popish mandates. In the wake of the Darwinian scientific revolution, however, Cragun noted that according to the results of a 1916 survey, 95 percent of U.S. scientists were atheists. Meanwhile, Protestants diverged into fundamentalist anti-science and less rigid pro-science camps. Cragun admitted that his own divergence from the teachings of the Mormon church began in a Utah public high school where he was taught that, contrary to Joseph Smith’s revelations, American Indians were descended from far northeast Asians who likely crossed an Ice Age land-bridge between Siberia and Alaska tens of thousands of years ago, rather than from southwest Asian Israelites who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean less than 3,000 years ago.

Sean Faircloth expanded on Cragun’s discussion of the modern antagonism between fundamentalists who would have everyone live by the brutal, contradictory, and misogynistic standards of past millennia while waiting for the end of the world; and those who recognize that the Bible (any version of it) is neither literal truth nor full of benevolent wisdom fit for all ages. Faircloth highlighted the fundamentalist efforts to undermine the teaching and promotion of science in the U.S. in recent decades, including contin-

ued efforts to replace the teaching of evolution with creationism, as well as such acts as the de-funding and closure of the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) by Newt Gingrich as part of his infamous Contract with America enacted after he became U.S. Speaker of the House in 1995. Founded in 1972, the OTA’s purpose was to provide Congressional members and committees with objective and authoritative analysis of



Darwin and first sketch of evolutionary tree of life from his 1837 notebook

complex scientific and technical issues. Gingrich and his ultra-conservative colleagues claimed that the OTA was unnecessary and redundant, but it appears their real problem with it was its objective scientific analysis, especially when it didn’t uphold their entirely subjective notions that acid rain is not a problem, climate change is a myth, and that the U.S. health care system is the best in the world and does not need to be reformed (this being long before “Obamacare”). Faircloth describes the ongoing conflict of words and laws in his 2012 book, *Attack of the Theocrats:*

How the Religious Right Harms Us All and What We Can Do About It. While the theocrats would have us return to the imagined utopia of our nation’s colonial past where religious intolerance dominated many colonies, Faircloth advocated a return to the secular roots of the newly independent U.S., whose constitution forbade any religious test for public office and which, under President John Adams and with the full consent of Congress, approved a treaty with the notice that “the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion.” Part of the solution, Faircloth proposed, is greater political activism by secularists, such as taking part in the Presidential primaries, including the Republican primary in Iowa where only a few hundred people could make a big difference in who gets nominated and may wind up leading the nation.

By my rough estimate, there were over 150 attendees in the spacious UU meeting hall, all to honor Darwin and celebrate science and reason. Perhaps not nearly as many as routinely fill the First Baptist Church every Sunday, but with perseverance, freethinkers may yet see the day when reasonable discourse and objective evaluation of the facts hold more sway than insubstantial dogmatic beliefs and threats of eternal damnation for free thoughts.



It Would Be Nice . . .

Joe Varon

It would be reassuring to believe that there really is a master plan for this universe and that everything is unfolding exactly in accordance with that plan.

It would be cathartic to believe that whenever adverse things happen to us, it was a purposeful part of that plan to make us more resolute and stronger.



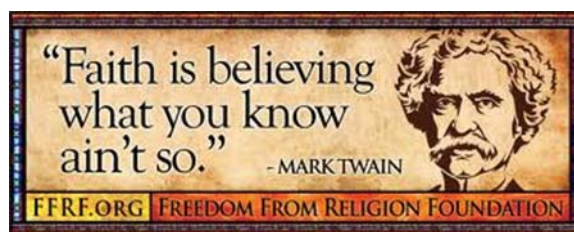
It would be convenient to believe that the single entity, responsible for all the positive and negative events that happen, made this plan and decreed that we aren't supposed to be

able to understand its mysterious rationale.

Yet, it would be comforting to believe that we are all loved by that omnipotent entity, are being compassionately looked after and will be rewarded in death for any ordeals we've had to endure in this life.

It would be nice to believe all these concepts based entirely on faith...

But I don't.



Observations on Zero Dark Thirty & Osama Bin Laden

For most Americans, the attacks of September 11, 2001, qualify as the most horrific event in our history since the assassination of President Kennedy, and as with that crime, plenty of suspicion surrounds 9/11, with many certain there's far more to the story than the official version. Naturally, the controversy extends to the mission that led to the death of the reputed mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Osama bin Laden, including assertions that he was already long dead or that he is still out there somewhere. The Oscar-nominated film about that mission has aroused its own controversy over whether torture was successfully used to locate bin Laden. As it is, this story involves religious and nationalistic fanaticism, terrorism, war, government and corporate lies and failures in judgment, and conspiracy theories. Plenty of fodder for freethinkers to contemplate and debate about. In the following article, Joque Soskis ponders bin Laden's last apparent failure of foresight. —Fred W. Hill, Editor

Joque Soskis

From time to time there appears a movie that can make you think. I saw *Zero Dark Thirty* last week, and it evoked a terrifying insight. (I am not here referring to the movie's clear implication that systematic torture of detainees yielded the intelligence that led to Osama bin Laden's compound, an issue about which there is certainly a great deal of doubt.)

With these thoughts, I do not mean to diminish in any way the achievements of the intelligence community, many of whose members worked tirelessly at unglamorous jobs for years, even when it must have seemed that no one much cared any more, to locate bin Laden's compound. Credit must also go to the engineers who created ways to make inherently noisy and obvious helicopters a great deal more stealthy. I certainly have nothing but the greatest ad-

miration for the bravery and professionalism of the members of Seal Team VI. And of course, no one could fail to appreciate the lonely and courageous decision the President took, undoubtedly with full knowledge of the inherent peril to our forces, the prestige of the nation, and his own legacy.

Rather, the thing that flashed somewhat laboriously through my mind was what staggering good fortune the U.S. enjoyed in connection with the assault on the compound. The great luck to which I refer is the fact that Osama bin Laden either (1) was not nearly as intelligent as we had supposed, or (2) suffered from jaw-dropping hubris: his compound was, for all practical purposes, entirely undefended!

Now, certainly no one would ever be likely to mistake me for an expert on tactical defense, but just try if you would to imagine what

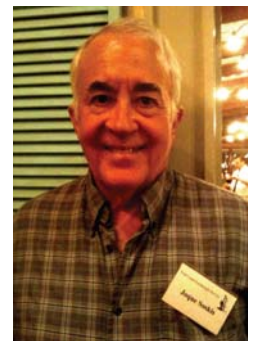
the horrifyingly different outcome of that mission might have been if Osama bin Laden had been determined not to be captured or killed without a struggle, and had taken even the most rudimentary steps to protect his compound.

Suppose he had:

1. Developed and practiced a plan, perhaps just something as simple as being sure everyone knew exactly where they were to go and what they were to do in the event of attack;

2. Posted sentries on top of the building at night, who would surely have heard the choppers and awakened the person in charge of defense, who would then have activated that plan;

(Continued on page 9)



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3. Installed infrared security cameras (connected to their monitors by fiberoptic cable, to eliminate electromagnetic signals), which would show the location and number of attackers;

4. Rigged strategic areas of the compound with anti-personnel explosives to be remotely detonated;

5. Trained those defending the compound to wait until all the wives and children were in a safe

room, and the attackers were within the walls (or maybe even in the stairwells), and then to counterattack with fragmentation grenades;

6. Rigged generous quantities of incendiary explosives, to be remotely detonated, in the room(s) in which computers and other records were stored.

The consequence would almost certainly have been a far noisier, more violent and more protracted engagement, with at least some casualties among our forces. Given the proximity of the compound to the middle of

Abbottabad, large numbers of Pakistani soldiers, police and civilians would likely have converged on the area in response to the noise, trapping Seal Team VI, many of them wounded, inside the compound walls.

tunnel behind those escaping. The tunnel could then emerge in a building some distance away, which housed an apparently innocent front business or residence. Presumably, the building would have a totally innocuous-looking car stashed in back,

in a garage facing the back alley. The result could have been that, in addition to a bloodbath at the compound and the necessity to insert many more combatants into a sovereign foreign country to

rescue the original team, we might have missed Osama bin Laden (again).

Ultimately, my pride and satisfaction in the outcome of this mission are undiminished, but my strongest emotion after seeing this movie was one of relief that the target was, for whatever reasons, so obliging in helping to make it successful. I shudder when I think what the outcome might have been if Osama bin Laden, or someone working for him, had been either smarter or more humble (or worse, both).



Image from Zero Dark Thirty

Incidentally: since bin Laden was apparently in the compound for several years, and since he apparently had access to significant sums of money and a group of fanatically loyal followers, it may have been feasible (had it occurred to someone) for him to construct a tunnel out of the compound. Such a tunnel might have included several sequenced T-intersections (so that pursuers would have to either waste valuable time discovering the correct route or successively divide their forces as they proceeded), as well as explosives that could kill pursuers and/or close the



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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!

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**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

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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	March 18	FCFS Monthly Meeting, Jacksonville - 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	March 24	FCFS Secular Sunday in the Park, Jacksonville - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	March 26	FCFS Monthly Social at Olive Garden, Jacksonville - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	April 7	FCFS Humanist Book Discussion Group, Jacksonville - 2:00 p.m.
Monday	April 8	JAM Meetup at European Street Café in San Marco - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	April 13	FCFS/JAM Volunteer at Second Harvest - 10 a.m.
Monday	April 15	FCFS Monthly Meeting, Jacksonville - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	April 20	FCFS Deadline to submit articles for May 2013 <i>FreeThinker</i>

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 March Speaker: David R. Simon, Ph.D.

March's speaker is Dr. David R. Simon. Dr. Simon holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University in sociology and was a Postdoctoral Fellow in public health at UC Berkeley. He has recently completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Institute of Public Policy, University of North Florida. He is the author of 9 books, the latest of which is the tenth edition of *Elite Deviance*, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary as the oldest white-collar crime text in the field. Dr. Simon is also the author of some 56 academic articles, review essays, and book reviews. His current research focuses on societal insanity.



The title of Dr. Simon's talk is, "New Revelations in the JFK Assassination Case." President Kennedy's assassination has been hotly debated in books, articles, two movies, and numerous documentaries for 50 years. Most materials on the case, beginning with the Warren Commission, began with biased assumptions, and only looked at evidence that supported such ideologies. This talk (1) objectively examines confirmed evidence in the case, and (2) provides an examination of the leading extant "who done it" theories and the functions they serve for those supporting them.

