

The First Coast

FreeThinker



Newsletter of the First Coast Freethought Society

September 2013

Volume 12, Issue 9

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Earl Coggins

Dan Barker, co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, will be speaking to the First Coast Freethought Society at our September meeting. The meeting has been moved up a week to September 9th, which is the 2nd Monday of the month, instead of our normal 3rd Monday.

Dan Barker is co-president of FFRF with his wife, Annie Laurie Gaylor. The Freedom From Religion Foundation is a huge asset to the freethought

movement and has a past rich with achievements. It also has Anne Nicol Gaylor, who in my opinion is at the top of the list of "big guns" in the freethought movement. No offense to Dan



Barker or his wife, or for that matter, any of the wonderful people giving their time, energy, and

"[Anne Nicol Gaylor] realized that a woman's...reproductive freedom would never be realized unless religious doctrine and dogma were removed from government policy."

resources in the name of freethought. They're doing a fantastic job standing up for the separation

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"So you really think that God would plant a bunch of bones in the earth to test your faith? Either you're in denial or God has some serious self-esteem issues."

—Coral Yoshi

September 2013 Meeting

Dan Barker, Co-President, Freedom from Religion Foundation

"Freedom From Religion: Past, Present and Future"

Monday, September 9, 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 - Jacksonville

When: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., the first Sunday of each month.

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

What: Books planned for discussion:

- October 6, 2013 - *Crooked Timber of Humanity*, by Isaiah Berlin



Link to Book Review: <http://www.georgescialabba.net/mtgs/2001/10/the-crooked-timber-of-humanity.html>

Isaiah Berlin was one of the most important philosophers of the twentieth century—an activist of the intellect who marshaled vast erudition and eloquence in defense of the endangered values of individual liberty and moral and political pluralism. In the *Crooked Timber of Humanity* he exposes the links between the ideas of the past and the social and political cataclysms of our present century: between the Platonic belief in absolute Truth and the lure of authoritarianism; between the eighteenth-century reactionary ideologue Joseph de Maistre and twentieth-century fascism; between the romanticism of Schiller and Byron and the militant—and sometimes genocidal—nationalism that convulses the modern world.

More Info: Contact Herb Gerson at 904-363-6446, or 12herbert30gerson@bellsouth.net.

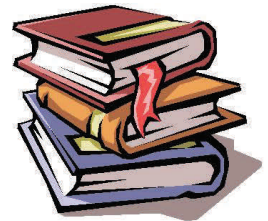
Humanist Book Discussion Group - St. Augustine

When: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., the second Monday of each month.

Where: Clubhouse at a private condominium in St. Augustine (Anastasia Island).

What: Book planned for discussion:

- October 14, 2013 - *Religion in the Making*, by Alfred North Whitehead



Link to Book Review: <http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/abn/23/3/401/>

Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947) was a prominent English mathematician and philosopher who co-authored the highly influential *Principia Mathematica* with Bertrand Russell. *Religion in the Making*, which originated in a series of four lectures delivered in King's Chapel, Boston, during February 1926, constitutes an exploration of the relationship between human nature and religion. In many ways a rejection of dogma, the text explores the connection between religious transformation and the transformation of knowledge.

More Info: Contact Bill Stroop at bill@strooplaw.com for address, directions, and gate code.

NOTE TO ALL!: Books may be found in the library, purchased from local book stores or 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.

(President's Message , cont'd from pg 1)

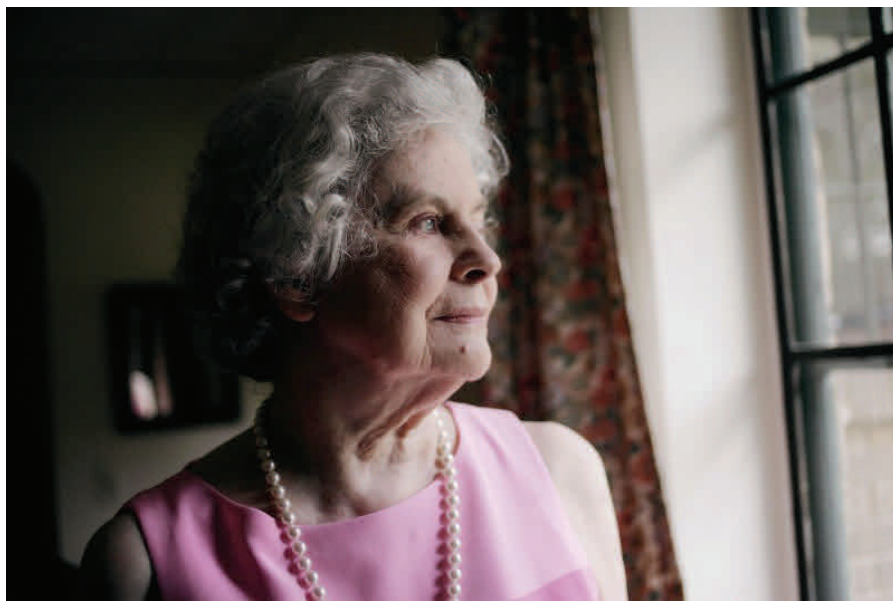
of state and church and bringing public awareness to the many problems society and civilization has had to endure because of religious doctrine infiltrating it at all levels of life. We owe these soldiers of secularism a great debt of gratitude.

Currently, the freethought movement's leadership is made up of more men than women, but the movement received a huge kick-start in the middle of the 20th century by two women, Madalyn Murray O'Hair and Anne Nicol Gaye3lor.

O'Hair founded American Atheists in the 1960s. One of her "go to" people was Anne Nicol Gaylor. I have been unable to find any information regarding the duration of Gaylor's association with American Atheists, nor have I been able to find anything about her friendship with O'Hair. All I know is that she had a falling out with O'Hair in the '70s.

Anne Nicol Gaylor was what we would call a femi-

nist, because she was working tirelessly for abortion rights and the freedom to distribute contraceptive devices to sexually active people, regardless of their marital status. She lobbied at the State Legislature against Wisconsin's law banning the sale of contraceptives to unmarried people.



Anne Nicol Gaylor

Working from that context, it didn't take Anne Nicol Gaylor very long to realize that a lot of people were working for women's rights, but none of them dealt with the root cause of women's oppression: religion.

Anne was born on a farm near Tomah, Wisconsin. Her mother, Lucie Sowle Nicol, was descended from George Sowle, a passenger on the *Mayflower* (not a Pilgrim,

but an apprentice). Lucie died when Anne was two. Anne was a second-generation freethinker on her father's side of the family.

Graduating from high school at 16, she paid her way through college as a waitress and received her degree in English from the

University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1949. She married Paul Gaylor that same year and continued to work through four pregnancies. In or around 1966, Anne Nicol Gaylor became editor of the *Middleton Times Tribune*, turning it into an award-

winning weekly. After writing the first editorial in the state calling for legalized abortion in 1967, she began receiving calls from desperate women and turned to volunteer activism.

Among her feminist activities, Anne founded the ZPG Abortion Referral Service in 1970 and, over the next 5 years, made more than 20,000 referrals for

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abortion, birth control, and sterilization. In 1972, she co-founded the Women's Medical Fund charity to help women with low-income pay for abortions. She has helped more than 14,000 women and ran that charity as a volunteer for 32 years. Her book, *Abortion is a Blessing*, was published in 1975. Not long after the publication of her book, her falling out with Madalyn Murray O'Hair occurred. Gaylor didn't, or couldn't stop there.

I think this was a turning point in her activism. She realized that a woman's right to basic civil rights, and especially reproductive freedom, would never be realized unless religious doctrine and dogma were removed from government policy. This was when she made the decision to devote the remaining years of her life to combating this all too real elephant-on-the-table of women's rights.

In 1976, she founded with her daughter Annie Laurie, then a college student, the Freedom From Religion Foundation in order to promote freethought and the separation of state and church. In 1978, after a

string of successful legal and media actions, she was urged to go national with the Foundation. Anne had stopped prayers in local public schools and at federally funded senior citizen programs. She served as elected president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation for 28 years.

Her daughter's take on the founding of FFRF: "My mother and I and a Milwaukee gentlemen first founded

"There are no gods, no devils, no angels, no heaven or hell. There is only our natural world. Religion is but myth and superstition that hardens hearts and enslaves minds."

— Anne Nicol Gaylor

the Freedom From Religion Foundation as a regional group when I was a college student in 1976. The impetus for the group was our somehow becoming aware they were opening county board meetings with prayer. We went down to ask them to stop this unconstitutional practice, and thought we would sound more powerful if we called ourselves a group. So we made up a name—and the rest is history!"

When a national reporter covering the founding

of the Foundation inquired as to whether or not the name Freedom From Religion Foundation might be too radical for the general public, Anne told him, "More people have been killed in the name of religion than for any other reason. I think the world is ready for us."

She took the Foundation from a 3-member, dining-room table operation and cause to a group with more than 19,000 members, a newspaper, other publications, many successful state/church lawsuits, and a national office, Freethought Hall, paid for with cash. She now is president emerita but works as a consultant for the Foundation.

One of her most widely-quoted maxims that turned into a bumper sticker on the back fenders of thousands of automobiles (including one of mine) around the country is: "Nothing fails like prayer." One of my favorites of all of her remarks is: "There are no gods, no devils, no angels, no heaven or hell. There is only our natural world. Religion is but myth and superstition that hardens hearts and enslaves minds."

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Her husband, Paul J. (Jody) Gaylor died May 5th, 2011. They were married for 61 years.

After the Freedom From Religion Foundation went national, Anne Nicol Gaylor appeared on practically every radio and TV talk show running at the time. Phil Donahue invited her to be a guest on his widely-watched TV program, but refused to mention Anne's book, *Abortion is a Blessing*. Donahue had a Roman Catholic background and probably feared the wrath of the church if he gave the appearance of promoting such a book. Donahue said the title of the book would create "shockwaves" around

the nation.

Having no fear of shockwaves, and against Donahue's will, Anne brought up before a national audience (it was a live broadcast) Donahue's concerns, thus exposing his censorship and proving the suppressive effect religion had (and still has) on the media. An embarrassed and red-faced Donahue then went into damage control and ran down the aisle showing Anne's book to the nation and ultimately to the world. After that show, Anne and FFRF received a thousand letters, the majority expressing overwhelming support and praise. Anne Nicol Gaylor was a pioneer for both the feminist and free-

thought movements. She has worked tirelessly her entire adult life fighting (and still going strong) for us all.

There were a few people in the feminist movement, individuals working closely with Anne Nicol Gaylor, who thought her atheist activism was hurting the feminist movement's cause. This was also happening within the freethought movement. People were telling Anne that her feminist activism was hurting its cause. To be or not to be part of two movements? I for one am glad she didn't listen to them.



"An all-powerful being who has stood calmly by and permitted the torture and massacre of his own children and chosen prophets, not to mention the thousands of unfortunate women and children, is – well, he is not the kind of god that I want to worship, and I don't think either "merciful" or "just" are exactly the adjectives that should apply to him.

"As for those people who cry out for the past and mourn the overthrow of superstition and the advance of science and reason, I hardly think they would on the whole care to be placed in a world such as this was three or four centuries back."

— Lilian Leland (1857—?)

Monthly Social

Where: OLIVE GARDEN on Philips Highway, across from the Avenues Mall.
When: Tuesday September 24, 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!

FDR's Four Freedoms and a Pussy Riot in Russia

Fred W. Hill

During his State of the Union address of January 6, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt enumerated what he held were “four essential human freedoms” which included freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. At the time, the United States was not an active participant in any war, but totalitarian regimes dominated much of Europe and Asia and had launched wars of conquest. The U.S. itself was hardly squeaky clean, stained by religious and racial bigotry, Jim Crow laws that made a mockery of constitutional rights, and the terrorist activities of the Ku Klux Klan abetted by state and local governments. Roosevelt was advocating an ideal, but one he believed a “basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation.”

History, however, tends to mock our grandest, humanist aspirations. The worst regimes of 1941 were eventually overcome or eventually gave way to more moderate governments. Even Jim Crow laws were finally eradicated in the wake of media coverage of atrocities committed to put down non-

violent protests that became too embarrassing to ignore, in the context of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to win the hearts and minds of people around the world who tended to be dark-skinned—just like the black Americans they saw being oppressed in the “land of the free.” That the Cold War itself ended with a few whimpers by disgruntled hard-line Communists rather

“...[I]n Russia it will be more than just good manners to avoid discussing religious differences over dinner – it will be the law!”

than a series of catastrophic nuclear bangs was a relief to many of us who came of age during that era. Russia, the largest shard of the shattered Soviet Union, would now become a constitutional federal republic, with guarantees of free speech and religion. We won the arms race and now our old rival had become more like us! Suddenly it didn't seem too far-fetched to imagine that there would be a tremendous peace dividend – that billions then spent on weapons of mass destruction and the military infrastructure might be redirected towards provid-

ing greater public education for more people, and doing more to ensure no one is left in want of nutritious food and adequate shelter, among other lofty goals. Making FDR's high hopes a reality seemed possible. The attacks of September 11, 2001, and the resultant “War on Terror” broke that illusion.



Anyone paying attention, however, couldn't have been all that surprised. The threat of nuclear annihilation may have ebbed, but there was still plenty of violence around the world.

Another cause for fear, however, came from our very success in being fruitful and multiplying our numbers and living in comforts brought by massive consumption of energy at the expense of a healthy environment. Even as severe drought has ravaged a large chunk of our nation for several years and underground water reservoirs built up over thousands of years are being rapidly depleted due to excess use, most of our elected representatives (and the people who vote for them) continue to

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deny the reality of global climate change brought about by human activity, as recognized by “an overwhelming consensus of scientists” (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/05/130515203048.htm>). Despite rightwing griping about government restrictions meant to protect the environment, we still have plenty of freedom to cause much damage but not enough freedom from fear and ignorance to face up to the long-term consequences of that damage. Moreover, China’s shift from Maoist Communism, under which the predominant freedoms for the masses were to shut up and starve, to a form of state-run capitalism with little or no regulations to protect the environment or the general well-being of the population, has hardly resulted in a paradise. A few can now become immensely rich, just like in the U.S., but at the cost of air pollution bad enough to reduce life expectancy in the increasingly over-populated cities¹; grand scale desertification over 25 percent of the nation²; and the intensified slaughter of elephants, rhinos, tigers, and other endangered animals to

provide trinkets, quack medicines and supposed aphrodisiacs³ (see ¹<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/burning-issues-in-air-pollution-in-china-2013-08-25>; ²

Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941, imagining a world with freedom of religion and speech and free of fear and want.

[.org/2013/06/at-deserts-edge-glimpse-chinas-massive-desertification-challenge/#.UhwgxuLD-M8](http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/chinese-demand-fuels-illegal-slaughter-rhinos-elephants-and-tigers_704913.html); ³http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/chinese-demand-fuels-illegal-slaughter-rhinos-elephants-and-tigers_704913.html). We may yet learn to fear the horrors of unrestrained human greed as much as human belligerency.

Meanwhile, freedom from

want hasn’t going away. Globally, an estimated “25,000 people die every day of hunger or hunger-related causes,” a consequence of severe poverty (<http://www.poverty.com/>).

And exercising freedom of speech and religion too extravagantly, such as by going on a mission to North Korea to convince some locals about the wonders of Christ, opining in a college in Pakistan that the prophet Mohammed may actually have been wrong about something; or openly denying the existence of god in Saudi Arabia, may not only land you in legal hot water, but may cost you your head.

Even in the no longer quite so evil empire of Russia, criticizing the church and the once and future President

isn’t a good idea—unless you’re willing to put up with a few years of hard labor for your ideals, as members of the guerilla performance punk feminist band Pussy Riot can attest. Three members of the group were arrested and charged with hooliganism based on religious hatred after they took part in a performance of a “punk moleben” (supplicatory

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prayer) on the altar of an Orthodox church in Moscow, urging Mother Mary to become a feminist and get rid of Prime Minister Putin and criticizing the close ties of church and state in Russia,

the subservience of the Russian people to the church, and the church's traditionalist views of women. One member was eventually released but the other two, Maria

Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, were convicted and sentenced to two years in a penal colony for having "crudely undermined the social order" and showing "complete lack of respect" (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-19297373>). Yes, in Russia it is illegal to hurt the feelings of religious believers. To be fair, as noted by Christopher Stroop of the *Religious Dispatches* blog, Russian legislators are considering a bill to expand

and protect the feelings of atheists as well, which would mean in Russia it will be more than just good manners to avoid discussing religious differences over dinner – it will be the law!

(<http://www.religiondispatch.com>



Pussy Riot rocking the Red Square in 2012, rattling the Kremlin

[es.org/archive/politics/7183/in_russia_it_is_now_a_crime_to_insult_someones_religious_feelings/](http://www.religiondispatch.com/archive/politics/7183/in_russia_it_is_now_a_crime_to_insult_someones_religious_feelings/))

Roosevelt was a much better politician than a prophet. Certainly, there are now many nations that protect the right of free expression and to worship or not however one likes, as long as doing so doesn't cause unjustified harm to others, and however unlikely it seems now, perhaps even-

tually freedom of speech and religion will be realities in every nation. And it's worth trying to eliminate starvation and abject poverty and prevent war and other forms of violence. While we exist and think, however, we'll

never be entirely free of want and fear, nor should we be, as they can be engines of aspiration, although we should not let them overwhelm us to the point of

rapacious greed, irrational hatred, or incapacitating dread. And in closing I'll freely express my hope that a vast majority of humans will one day come together to peacefully resolve our global problems and free themselves from belief in any supernatural being, that only leaves them in expectation of salvation from beyond that will never come.



Leukemia & Lymphoma Society - Light The Night Walk Thursday, November 7, 2013

David Viviano

The Foundation Beyond Belief has formed a great relationship with Leukemia & Lymphoma Soci-



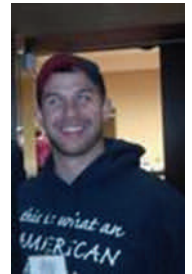
ety, and to continue their hard work, I formed a team to participate in the Jacksonville Light The Night Walk.

Not only will we be walking as a team, but through donations and fundraising we can really make an impact and get our name out there. If we can raise a large amount of funds, we can really show the area that we are good people and we are a part of the community.

To register for the walk go to this link: <http://www.lightthenight.org/register/> It will set up your own personal donate page, and if you join the team (which of course I labeled

“North Florida Atheists”), it will also link you to the team page as well, and together we can watch our funds grow. This is the link to our home page: <http://pages.lightthenight.org/ncfl/Jacksonv13/NorthFloridaAtheists> If you are not able to walk for the event, that is fine. You can still help by donating and also bugging friends and family to help as well.

For more information on the event, go to: <http://www.foundationbeyondbelief.org/LLS-lightthenight>



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.
P.O. Box 550591
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 2013 Board Members

President	Earl Coggins	521-5039
Vice President	Carrie Renwick	268-8826
Secretary	Don DuClose	388-3125
Treasurer	Stephen Peek	742-5390
At-Large	Herb Gerson	363-6446
At-Large	Fred Hill	358-3610
At Large	Richard Keene	386-1121

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	Sept. 9	FCFS Monthly Meeting, Jacksonville - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	Sept. 14	North Florida Atheists Meetup at Orange Park Library - 5:30 p.m.
Monday	Sept. 16	Humanist Book Discussion Group - St. Augustine - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Monday due to Dan Barker on 2nd Monday)
Sunday	Sept. 22	FCFS Secular Sunday in the Park, Jacksonville - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	Sept. 22	JAM Meetup (check website for location) - 1:30 p.m.*
Tuesday	Sept. 24	FCFS Monthly Social at Olive Garden, Jacksonville - 6:00 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 27	Secular St. Augustine Meetup at Applebee's - 7:00 p.m.**
Sunday	October 6	Humanist Book Discussion Group - Jacksonville - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 19	FCFS Deadline to submit articles for October 2013 <i>FreeThinker</i>
Monday	October 21	FCFS Monthly Meeting Jacksonville - 6:30 p.m.

* See <http://www.meetup.com/Secular-Saint-Augustine/> to sign up.

** See <http://www.meetup.com/jaxatheists/> for details.

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 September Speaker: Dan Barker

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the September 9, 2013, special meeting of the First Coast Freethought Society. (Note, our Dan Barker meeting will be the *second* Monday in September.)

Dan Barker is one of America's most prominent activist atheists today. Dan was an evangelical Christian preacher and musician for 19 years before becoming a secular humanist and atheist. He is currently co-president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation based in Madison, Wisconsin. This organization is one of the largest and best known groups devoted to the interests of freethinkers and the separation of church and state in our country.

Dan's publications include *Losing Faith in Faith: From Preacher to Atheist*, *Godless: How an Evangelical Preacher Became One of America's Leading Atheists*, and *The Good Atheist: Living a Purpose-Filled Life Without God*.

He has also given speeches and participated in debates all over the United States and abroad.

To learn more about Dan and the Freedom from Religion Foundation, visit, <http://ffrf.org>.

