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July 2014

Volume 13, Issue 7

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This Month's Meeting

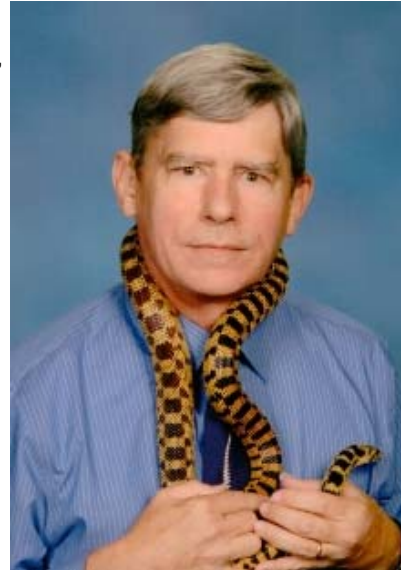
- **What:** July FCFS Meeting
- **Who:** David Campbell, award-winning high school science teacher
- **Title:** "How Do We Know?" (or, "Why science and conservative theology can't agree on anything of substance except that the other side is wrong")
- **When:** Monday, July 21, 2014, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:00)

- **Where:** Buckman Bridge Unitarian Church, 8447 Manresa Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32244 (Driveway located on Collins Rd., 400 feet east of Roosevelt Blvd.)

Meetings Free and Open to the Public • Plenty of Free Parking

Meet the Speaker

I developed a passion for natural history, especially birds, at an early age and took up active birding as a hobby when I was 11. I attended Cornell University on an NROTC scholarship, graduating with a BS in Biological Science and receiving a commission in the Navy on the same day. While in the Navy, I made four Mediterranean deployments flying SH-3 helicopters from three different aircraft carriers, spent 2.5 years as a helicopter flight instructor, and spent my last four years as a safety/combat search and rescue/disaster preparedness coordinator and official staff eccentric on an admiral's staff at NAS Jacksonville.



Since retiring from the Navy I have devoted 20 years to teaching science at Ridgeview Junior High and Ridgeview High School in Orange Park. I was Ridgeview's Teacher of the Year in 2000, the same year I completed National Board For Professional Teaching Standards certification for adult/young adult science. In 2007 and 2008 I was one of the teachers who wrote the Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for life sciences. In August 2008 I was profiled in a Sunday New York Times article about how I teach biological evolution in a hostile setting. I have made presentations on science education in the United States and Canada and gave the Keynote Address at Cornell University's Darwin Day celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin.

I have been interested in learning and how we learn for more than three decades and the conflict between conservative religious groups and the scientific community concerning biological evolution since 1974. I have several presentations I give to upper level students at Ridgeview on learning styles, why good scientists sometimes publish bad conclusions, and (my favorite), "Everything I Know Was Inspired by Loony Tunes," a look at the role of curiosity and chain of consciousness learning methods.

I am a charter member of the North American Nature Photography Association and a founding member and member of the Board of Directors of Florida Citizens for Science. My hobbies include snorkeling, old time radio, classical music, raising reptiles, natural history, photography, and collecting and restoring vintage fountain pens. My wife Lynne and I will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary this fall.

My motto is, "Every day is a new chance to reduce my ignorance."

Meeting Description

This talk will be an exploration of different ways of learning and knowing in the domains of science and religion. David will examine how both science and religion ask and answer questions, the types of questions they ask, and how they arrive at their conclusions. David says, "I will discuss some of the causes of the frequent conflicts between religion and science and will conclude with ideas, albeit imperfect ones, for minimizing those conflicts while trying to explain why it is in our best interests to try to do so."

"How Do We Know?" should provide a nice followup to May's meeting, which took a brutally honest look at the evangelical Christian viewpoint in comparison to the scientific viewpoint on evolution as revealed in the HBO documentary movie, "Questioning Darwin."

July President's Message

Earl Coggins

The foundation of the Age of Enlightenment was a rejection of superstition, which was essentially a condemnation of revelation, miracles, and magic. It's interesting how the meaning of superstition has changed since then.

Superstition today is more or less defined as any magic, miracles, or revelation unrelated to the prevailing magic, miracles, or revelation. In other words, if it's not my magic, it's someone else's superstition. Unfortunately, the belief in magic is alive and well. Magic is everywhere.

A good example is folklore, which can contain elements of magic. Another example is creation myth. Most cultures have a creation story, and they're usually loaded with magic, miracles, and superstition. I see creation myth perceived from culture to culture the same way in which superstition is perceived: my culture's creation story is real and all others are merely myth.

In our country I don't hear but one creation myth being presented as a true story, even though there are hundreds of religions being practiced in the U.S. We all know which one I am talking about: Christian fundamentalist creationism.

I have friends who are religious who do not try and shove their religion, along with its dogma and doctrine, down the throats of others. A lot of religious people have shed the magic and miracles of their faith. They don't speak out against science, but instead they are on the sidelines supporting it in their own way. I feel strongly they are growing tired of their religion being bastardized by the fundamentalists within their ranks, similar to what has happened with the Muslim religion and its fundamentalist segment since September 11, 2001. The fundamentalists in this country, with their Christian nation chants and creationism rants, appear to be gaining a new foothold on the American landscape. I don't think it will last much longer.

I have a feeling we are seeing the last rays of light from a dying star. That dying star is not necessarily



Christianity per se, but more likely the dying star is the exalted position Christianity has enjoyed for over a thousand years. Christianity has been losing its foothold within local, state, and federal government one baby step at a time since the founding of this country.



John Shelby Spong
Episcopalian Bishop

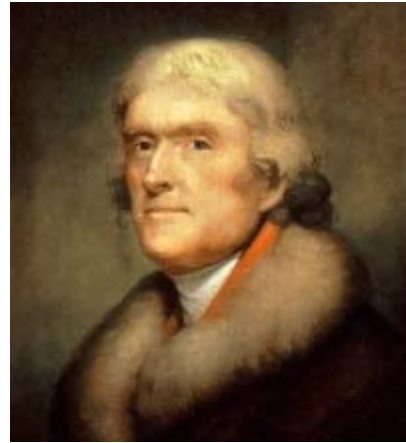
John Shelby Spong, an American Bishop of the Episcopal Church, wrote *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*. The book was touted as the beginning of a new reformation. Even though a lot of what he said in his book was correct and needed to be said, he received a lot of criticism from the fundamentalist members of Christianity. The light of the dying star was aimed at him. It's still bright enough to create some heat, but its glow is waning. The fundamentalists know the day is coming when Christianity, or for that matter any religion, will no longer be something of great worth in the minds of a majority of people. The times they are a changing, albeit slowly.

Even though the sky fell a little with the recent Supreme Court decisions in *Greece v. Galloway* and *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, I feel the horizon looks good. People with rational minds and scientifically minded frames of reference will prevail.

Creationism is a magical alternative to the theory of evolution. If Christianity's creation myth is proven to be false, and I think it has, then Christianity's sacred text, *The Bible*, is no longer infallible, which means the Christian god is no longer infallible, and just like a house of cards, everything comes tumbling down. It is for this reason alone the fundamentalists and creationists can still be heard wailing incessantly. They are protecting the linchpin of their religion.

I feel somewhat sorry for those Christians who insist on shoving their religion down the throats of everyone else. It's as if they can't have peace of mind. There's an old saying about peace, author unknown, that I truly believe in: "Peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart."

Thomas Jefferson
(Portrait by
Rembrandt Peale, 1805)



I think Thomas Jefferson had that quote in mind when he said: "But it does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods, or no gods. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg." I'm not saying the war is over with the religious fundamentalists, but I do have a calm heart in the midst of the noise and trouble being caused by religious extremists and fundamentalists, because I believe reason, rationality, and scientifically minded people will prevail.

If we do nothing else, we must support and promote the scientific method. Magic is everywhere if you don't understand science.

July Olive Garden Social - Day After Meeting!

- Where: **OLIVE GARDEN** on Philips Highway, across from the Avenues Mall. The hostesses will know where we are seated. Proceed directly to our room.
- When: Tuesday, JULY 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Social hour at 6:00. Dinner at 7:00. We order from the menu.
- RSVP: E-mail CarrieRen@att.net (or call 904-268-8826) by Tuesday morning, if you plan to attend!

Rabbi Shapiro and the Solemnizing Message Before City Council Meetings

Susan Ert-Ker

I very much enjoyed Rabbi Shapiro's talk on Monday, June 16, 2014 for the First Coast Freethought Society monthly meeting. It was fun also to see all the raised hands of people willing to give the suggested message (https://au.org/files/pdf_documents/Ol-SampleInvocation-1.pdf) before a City Council meeting.

I raised my hand also, but I think I need public speaking training before I'd actually be willing to do it. I do hope good public speakers will offer to give the message.

In December of 2013 I asked the City Council, "WHO is in charge of assigning the speaker for the invocation?" Cindy Laquidara (attorney for the city) replied, "The person giving the invocation is selected by the Council President who has been advised, and who considers the constitutional issues. We will all continue to respect the First Amendment..."



I encourage you to send an email to City Council President Clay Yarborough. Ask him his policy. Ask him if you can give the solemnizing message. I also cc'd the city attorneys so they could encourage Yarborough to do the right thing. Here is the email I sent to Yarborough (clay@coj.net) recently:

From: Susan

Date: Tue, Jun 10, 2014 at 8:52 AM

Subject: City Council Invocation Policy Clarification

To: "Laquidara, Cindy" <CindyL@coj.net>, clay@coj.net, aclufl@aclufl.org, STANJ@coj.net, JGabriel@coj.net, KristyA@coj.net

Dear Representative Yarborough,

It is my understanding that you will be City Council President effective July 1. Do you plan to continue the invocation prior to City Council meetings? If yes, what is your plan for inclusion?

Here are a few words of encouragement from this link

(https://www.au.org/files/pdf_documents/OperationInclusion-IntroFlyer.pdf):

Speakers must be given access without regard to religion:

IN THE COURT'S WORDS:

Government must "maintain...a policy of nondiscrimination. It must represent...that it would welcome a prayer by any minister or layman who wished to give one."

BOTTOM LINE:

Government cannot exclude potential speakers on the basis of religion; if it relies on outsiders to deliver a solemnizing message to open meetings, it must allow monotheists, polytheists, and nonbelievers to do so, as well.

As I mentioned to Cheryl Brown and President Gulliford, I would love to help you find people within the community to give the invocation.

I understand that it might be easier to just do away with the public prayer before government meetings. I understand that a more private prayer between like-minded people might be more humble than a public

display. BUT...if you plan to continue the public prayers before City Council meetings, I do hope you'll include EVERYONE, e.g., an atheist speaker, a Buddhist speaker, a Hindu speaker, a Catholic, etc.

Please let me know how I can help.
Thanks, Susan



**Merrill Shapiro, President
National Board of Trustees
of Americans United for
Separation of Church and
State**

For those of you not at the meeting, or without computers, here is the solemnizing message that Rabbi Shapiro asked us if we'd be willing to say at the beginning of a City Council meeting:

OPERATION INCLUSION – SAMPLE INVOCATION

"We come here to do the business of local government – the deliberative body that is closest to the people. As we gather, we are reminded that in our differences there is great strength. We do not all think the same way or believe the same things. Yet we are linked by our common humanity and our shared origin. When we work together to move our community forward in a spirit of mutual respect and common decency, we showcase what is best about our community, our state, and our nation.

"We embrace many traditions. We are Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, humanists, atheists, agnostics, Wiccans, Pagans, unaffiliated, uncertain, and so many other things. We are straight, gay, and transgender. We are young and old and everything in between. We represent dozens of races and nationalities. We run the gamut from liberal to conservative, and some of us are a bit of both.

"To be sure, we do not agree about everything. And we often feel fiercely protective of what we do believe. There is great passion in our beliefs—and rightly so.

"But there is one thing on which we all agree: We share the goal of making our community the best place it can be. We unite here today around that noble aim and common purpose." [END]

If you go to au.org and put "operation inclusion" in the upper right hand search box, you'll find the link to the operation inclusion kit that contains the solemnizing message and a model policy for city councils.

I hope you'll also join the local AU chapter's Meetup site and post a copy of your letter. If a lot of people write, maybe it will help Yarborough realize that we're not all Baptists.

IF your request to give the invocation is refused, I hope you'll follow Rabbi Shapiro's advice and report the refusal to AU (<https://www.au.org/get-involved/report-a-violation>) or at least post it on the local AU chapter's Meetup site.

Susan Ert-Ker

<http://susaninflorida.wordpress.com/>



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:
 - August 3, 2014 - *This Land Is Their Land: Reports from a Divided Nation*, by Barbara Ehrenreich
 - September 7, 2014 - *Blueprint for Theocracy: The Christian Right's Vision for America*, by James C. Sanford

Link to Book Review: <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2880662-this-land-is-their-land>

Barbara Ehrenreich's first book of satirical commentary, *The Worst Years of Our Lives*, about the Reagan era, was received with bestselling acclaim. The one problem was the title: couldn't some prophetic fact-checker have seen that the worst years of our lives—far worse—were still to come? Here they are, the 2000s, and in *This Land Is Their Land*, Ehrenreich subjects them to the most biting and incisive satire of her career.

Taking the measure of what we are left with after the cruelest decade in memory, Ehrenreich finds lurid extremes all around. While members of the moneyed elite can buy congressmen, many in the working class can barely buy lunch. While a wealthy minority obsessively consumes cosmetic surgery, the poor often go without health care for their children. And while the corporate C-suites are now nests of criminality, the less fortunate are fed a diet of morality, marriage, and abstinence. Ehrenreich's antidotes are as sardonic as they are spot-on: pet insurance for your kids; Salvation Army fashions for those who can no longer afford Wal-Mart; and boundless rage

AUTHOR OF NICKEL AND DIMED
 B A R B A R A
 E H R E N R E I C H
 T H I S
 L A N D
 IS ~~THEIR~~
 L A N D
REPORTS FROM A DIVIDED NATION

against those who have given us a nation scarred by deepening inequality, corroded by distrust, and shamed by its official cruelty.

Full of wit and generosity, these reports from a divided nation show once again that Ehrenreich is, as Molly Ivins said, "good for the soul."

—*The Times* (London)

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

Humanist Book Discussion Group - St. Augustine

- **When:** 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., the second Thursday of each month.
- **Where:** Clubhouse at a private condominium in St. Augustine (Anastasia Island).
- **What:** Book planned for discussion:
 - August 14, 2014 - *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe*, by Greg Epstein
 - September 11, 2014 - *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon* by Daniel C. Dennett (2007) Available in paperback or Kindle.

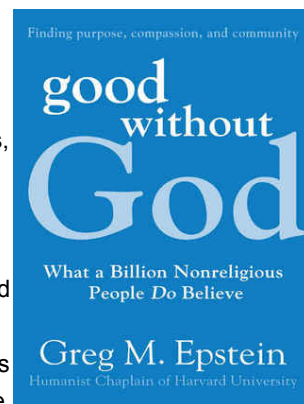
Link to Book Review: <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6362097-good-without-god>

An inspiring and provocative exploration of an alternative to traditional religion by the Humanist chaplain at Harvard University

With the current state of the economy, the ongoing wars that rage across the globe, and the unsettling changes to the earth's climate, questions about the role of God and religion in world affairs have never been more relevant or felt more powerfully. Many of us are searching for a place where we can find not only facts and scientific reason but also hope and the moral courage needed to overcome such challenges. For some, answers to the most challenging questions are found in the divine. For others, including the New Atheists, religion has no place in the world and is, in fact, an "enemy."

But in *Good Without God*, Greg Epstein presents another, more balanced and inclusive response: Humanism. With a focus on the positive, he highlights humanity's potential for goodness and the ways in which Humanists lead lives of purpose and compassion. Humanism can offer the sense of community we want and often need in good times and bad, as we celebrate marriages and the birth of our children, and as we care for those who are elderly or sick. In short, Humanism teaches us that we can lead good and moral lives without supernaturalism, without higher powers . . . without God.

In this constructive response not only to his fellow atheists Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris but also to contemporary religious leaders such as Rick Warren and Jim Wallis, Epstein makes a bold claim for what nonbelievers do share and believe. At a time when the debate about morality



rages more fiercely than ever—and when millions are searching for something they can put their faith in—Humanism offers a comfort and hope that affirms our ability to live ethical lives of personal fulfillment, aspiring together for the greater good of all.

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.

2014 NPR Corporate Sponsorship Fund Drive Update

Carrie Renwick

As you know, each year the First Coast Freethought Society conducts a fundraising campaign to keep our National Public Radio announcements about the FCFS and our monthly meetings going strong on NPR member radio station WJCT, 89.9 FM.

Donations are coming in somewhat slowly this year. As of this writing, Sunday, July 13, we have received \$1,800 towards our goal of \$6,638, so we are 27% of the way there. We need your help! Please be watching for e-mail and snail mails regarding our fund drive, and seriously consider contributing. If you are planning to contribute and have not yet done so, now is the time to take action!

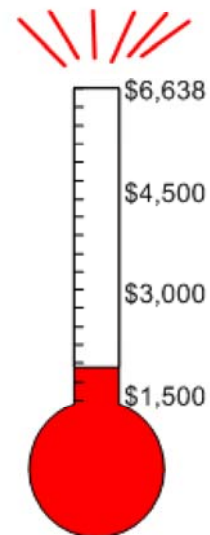
We have successfully reached our goal for the past seven years, so I am confident we can rise to the occasion once again. Please bear in mind, this is our **ONLY** fund drive per year. We will not pester you with fundraising until summer of 2015!

No amount is too small. You can be part of keeping our NPR announcements on the air, which may well be the most significant project the FCFS undertakes for the community and for the cause of all secularists, like us.

You can contribute in several ways:

1. Visit the website, <http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org>, where you will find the opportunity to contribute on our homepage. You can pay via PayPal or with any major credit card;
2. Mail a check payable to the FCFS to P.O. Box 550591, Jacksonville, FL 32255;
3. Bring your contribution to a meeting or another FCFS event and give it to a board member.

NPR-o-Meter



Whichever method you prefer, you will receive a letter from the treasurer, suitable for your IRS records, acknowledging your tax-deductible contribution.

Thank you for your support!

About our newsletter, the *First Coast FreeThinker*

Information for Readers

The First Coast FreeThinker is published for all freethinkers and potential freethinkers. Nonmembers and members 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. Members are entitled to receive hard-copy should they prefer. The e-mail version is encouraged, as the newsletter is optimized for on-screen reading.

Readers are invited and encouraged to share 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 should be submitted to Editor@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org. Contributors who cannot submit manuscripts electronically may send them to Fred Hill, Editor, 1817 Egner St., Jacksonville, FL 32206.

The deadline for time-sensitive material is the THIRD SATURDAY of each month for the following month's issue, but submissions are welcome anytime.

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: A Statement of Principles](#) (found on our website). All accepted submissions are subject to editorial modification. Our style guide is *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Printed manuscript submissions cannot be returned. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all quotations and for supplying complete references where applicable.

Remembering Don DuClose

Fred W. Hill

Donald Howard DuClose (1943-2014)

We are saddened to report the loss of one of our own this month, Donald H. DuClose, a long-time member of the First Coast Freethought Society and member of the Board since January 2012. Don died on July 2, 2014, after suffering a heart attack a few days before.

Don was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on September 28, 1943, but spent much of his childhood in both Chicago and Jacksonville, due to his father's job with the railroad, before his family moved permanently to Jacksonville in 1955. Don had been married to the love of his life, Elizabeth ("Liz") DuClose for 45 years, the last 24 of which they spent in the Riverside neighborhood.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Jacksonville University, Don taught biology and chemistry at Andrew Jackson High School and the Marine Science Center in Mayport, and he was Lab Manager at Florida Community College Jacksonville. Don was also an avid photographer and in 1991 won the City of Jacksonville's Earth Day Photo Competition. In addition to serving as Secretary for FCFS, Don also served on the board of the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society.



On July 12, many of Don's family and friends gathered at a private residence to pay tribute to Don. Several of his high school and college classmates reminisced about pranks they played on one another, but also of his love of science and photography even as an adolescent. Friends also spoke of Don's humor, his love of classic rock music, his love of the English language (especially punctuation and grammar), and his many other interests and talents, but most of all, of his commitment to his friends and family, of his warmth and genuine niceness as a person. As Earl Coggins put it, "Don will be missed by all of us."

Click [HERE](#) for online obituary.

About the First Coast Freethought Society

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 Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 8447 Manresa Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32244. (Driveway located on Collins Rd., 400 ft. east of Roosevelt Blvd.)

Meeting time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Other Activities

In addition to regular monthly meetings, we offer:

- two monthly humanist book discussion groups (one in Jacksonville and one in St. Augustine);
- a monthly social and dinner at the Olive Garden (see details in each newsletter);
- coffee and conversation in the fresh air on a monthly basis at Secular Sunday in the Park;
- Dinners for Doubters (when scheduled);
- volunteer opportunity on a monthly basis, currently at Dignity U Wear; and
- a freethought Yahoo! Group (to subscribe, send a blank message to: jaxfreethought-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com).

For information on all these activities, please visit <http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org>, or see the calendar of events at the end of each newsletter and on the website. You need not be a member to attend these activities!

FCFS 2014 Board Members

President - Earl Coggins: 904-521-5039

Vice President - Carrie Renwick: 904-268-8826

Secretary *pro tem* - Carrie Renwick: 904-268-8826

Treasurer - Stephen Peek: 904-742-5390

At-Large - Herb Gerson: 904-363-6446

At-Large - Fred Hill: 904-358-3610

At Large - Richard Keene: 904-386-1121

Other Appointments

Parliamentarian - Mark Renwick: 904-616-2896

E-mail Secretary - Carrie Renwick: 904-268-8826

Committees and Chairs

Editorial - Fred Hill: 904-358-3610

Community Outreach - Celia Abbruzzese: 904-982-8431

Finance - Stephen Peek: 904-742-5390

Fundraising - Carrie Renwick: 904-268-8826

Membership - Judy Hankins: 904-724-8188

Publicity - Carrie Renwick: 904-268-8826

Website - Mark Renwick: 904-616-2896

All FCFS personnel may be reached via e-mail at
info@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org

Announcing the FCFS August Meeting

Carrie Renwick, Program Chair

At our August 18, 2014 monthly meeting, we welcome Dr. Richard Hull to the podium. His talk is titled, "Huntington's Disease: Medical and Moral Dimensions." Huntington's disease is a late-onset, degenerative, genetic disease that finds itself expressed in individuals after their childbearing days are past, thus recurring generation after generation. It is passed from one affected parent to 50% of his or her offspring.

In this illustrated talk, Richard Hull, retired bioethicist, acquaints us with his fascination with this disease and those it affects. He brings to his talk videos that illustrate the horror and the dilemmas of the disease, as science began to develop methods of predicting it. His talk ends with a review of current research and its promise for eventually conquering this disease, long misidentified as a divine retribution for the sins of past relatives.

Richard Hull holds the Ph.D. in Philosophy and for 30+ years has served as a faculty member at several universities, including the University of Buffalo, Texas State University, and the University of Montana. Ethical issues in medicine have long been his specialty.

Bequests

*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 can provide the appropriate wording to you and your attorney, depending upon your wishes. Or, just talk to your attorney. Our EIN is 20-1462737.

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.

Northeast Florida Coalition of Reason

- First Coast Freethought Society: <http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org>
- Jacksonville Atheist, Agnostic, Secular Meetup Group (JAM): <http://jaxatheists.com>
- North Florida Atheists (NFA): <http://meetup.com/North-Florida-Atheists>
- Secular Saint Augustine (SSA): <http://meetup.com/Secular-Saint-Augustine>

The FCFS is a proud member of the [Florida Humanist Association](#) (formerly the Humanists of Florida Association).

Calendar of Freethought Events on the First Coast

- Monday, July 14 - JAM Session, 6:30 p.m. (See <http://www.meetup.com/jaxatheists/> for details.)
- Friday, July 18 - [Secular St. Augustine Meetup](#) - St. Augustine, 7:00 p.m. (Meetups are generally the third Friday, but you need to visit website to RSVP and for meeting details.)
- Saturday, July 19 - FCFS volunteers at Dignity U Wear, Jacksonville, 9:00 a.m. - Noon (See Ongoing Activities for more info.)
- Monday, July 21 - FCFS Monthly Meeting, Jacksonville, 6:30 p.m. (How Do We Know?)
- Tuesday July 22 - FCFS Monthly Social at Olive Garden, Jacksonville, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, July 26 - FCFS August Newsletter Deadline
- Sunday, July 27 - Secular Sunday in the Park, Jacksonville, 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, August 3 - Humanist Book Discussion Group - Jacksonville, 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 11 - JAM Session, 6:30 p.m. (See <http://www.meetup.com/jaxatheists/> for details.)
- Thursday, August 14 - Humanist Book Discussion Group - St. Augustine, Anastasia Island, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 18 - FCFS Monthly Meeting, Jacksonville (Huntington's Disease) - 6:30 p.m.

Directions to Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meetings are held at the **Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church (BBUUC)**, 8447 Manresa Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32244. The address is Manresa, but the main entrance to the church is located on Collins Rd..

- From I-295, take the Roosevelt exit. Go north on Roosevelt Blvd. to the first traffic light which is Collins Rd. Turn right onto Collins. Go 400 feet. The main entrance to the church is located on Collins Rd., on the right.
- Going south on Roosevelt, look for Atlantic Self-Storage on the left. This is the Collins Rd. intersection. Turn left onto Collins. Go 400 feet. The main entrance to the church is on Collins Rd., on the right. (If you come to I-295, you've gone too far, turn around, and you will turn right onto Collins Rd.)

MAP ON FCFS WEBSITE

See accurate map at this link: http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org/cms/lib/fcfs_bbuuc_map.gif (Please note, Google Maps, as well as other maps, may not be consistent with the actual street signs.)

FCFS July-at-a Glance

- Saturday, July 19 - FCFS Dignity U Wear, 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, July 21 - FCFS Monthly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday July 22 - FCFS Olive Garden, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 27 - FCFS Secular Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, August 3 - FCFS Book Discussion Group - Jax, 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 14 - FCFS Book Discussion Group - St. Aug, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 18 - FCFS Monthly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Details in newsletter, e-mail reminders, and on website.

Membership Application



Use this PDF form

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