

# Freely Speaking

Space Coast Freethought Association

February 2007

## Meeting February 4

Join us for our next meeting on February 4, at 1:30, at the Melbourne Public Library. We'll celebrate the anniversary of Darwin's birth with a presentation titled "Why Darwin was Right" given by Mike Sweeney. Discussion will follow.

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### Meetings Update

Meetings in March, May, and October of this year will be unusual. In March, we'll be meeting at a local park for an Easter celebration on the first Sunday. May's meeting will be on Thursday, May 3 at the National Day of Reason Dinner. October's meeting is tentatively planned for the DeGroot Library in Palm Bay on the usual Sunday.

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## February Agenda

Past events:

### Bowling

We had a great time at the Dairy Road bowling center! We'll bowl again soon.

Upcoming events:

**Adopt-a-Road** clean up, Sunday, Feb. 11

Meet at the former Atlanta Bread Co. parking lot at Palm Bay Rd. and Stack Blvd. at 10:00 a.m.

**February Social**, Saturday, Feb. 17

Game night at Dianna's house

Lots of fun!

RSVP to [catspah@cfl.rr.com](mailto:catspah@cfl.rr.com) for more info

**Next meeting**, Sunday March 4

Location will be announced at the February meeting.

Easter celebration in the park!

We'll be back at the library for our April meeting

**March Social**, Saturday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day street party in downtown

Melbourne

Meet at City Hall by 7:30

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## SCFA Blasphemes the Holy Spirit!

The Rational Response Squad asks daring freethinkers to damn themselves to hell, on tape, and upload it to the YouTube site on the Internet for all the world to see.

To start the new year off right, SCFA members took up the challenge after our January meeting. You can view our video on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3Y5WSO3zQY>

Go to <http://www.blasphemychallenge.com/> for instructions on uploading your own blasphemy response to the challenge and receive a free copy of *The God Who Wasn't There* (an excellent film).

View the Blasphemy Challenge video at YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7QVbJnSPQE>

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## Change in Newsletter

Our newsletter has turned into a bulletin. We still welcome articles, rants, letters, etc. Send all submissions to [catspah@cfl.rr.com](mailto:catspah@cfl.rr.com).

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## Events

**March 2-4**

**Center for Inquiry-FL 2007 Conference** in St. Petersburg.

<http://www.cfiflorida.org/events/index.html>

**April 6-8**

**American Atheists Convention** in Seattle

Washington. <http://www.atheists.org/convention/>

**May 3**

**National Day of Reason Dinner** at Back Bay

Seafood. 4910 Stack Blvd. in Melbourne.

RSVP to [catspah@cfl.rr.com](mailto:catspah@cfl.rr.com).

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## Church State Report: Florida

### Jacksonville agrees to settle atheists' lawsuit over faith rally (1/26)

The city will pay an atheist group \$5,000 in attorneys fees and will avoid holding religious events in the future in the settlement of a lawsuit over an Aug. 12, 2006, Day of Faith rally. The settlement, reached Jan. 19, requires the city to write New Jersey-based American Atheists Inc. a letter saying it did not intend to violate the First Amendment and to warn department heads against funding programs that "foster excessive entanglements with religion."

### Church sues county over right to have worship services at community center (1/16)

In July 2006, when a church needed a place to worship, its pastor submitted a request to use a conference room at the Marion Oaks Community Center in Ocala for Sunday morning Bible studies, but was denied. The Advisory Council Chairman said there is a written policy that outlines which organizations can use the community center facilities and that religious organizations can have functions at the community center, but they are limited to events such as festivals or wedding receptions. He said they cannot hold worship services there.

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## Members in Print

Sun Sentinel December 8, 2006  
And religion isn't in our Constitution  
By Dianna Narciso

Re "America's values aren't in Quran" (letter, Dec. 5):  
I guess a lot of people have never read and studied our Constitution. If they had, they'd know that it is not based on the Christian religion nor the Bible.

Nowhere in the Bible are there any ideas like the powers of government being granted by the governed, separation of powers, checks and balances, freedom of religion, free speech, etc.

Most important, it's very clear in the Constitution that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office."

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They might also learn that putting one's hand on a Bible and saying, "so help me God," is not part of the official oath.

This country was not founded on Judeo-Christian values. It was founded on the values of individual freedoms, freedom of conscience being chief among them.

We must fight against this intolerant and power-hungry minority of Christians demanding that we are a Christian nation. We are not. We are a religiously diverse nation where all of us are free to worship, or not, any way we like.

The only free country is a secular country, in which the rights of the minority are protected from tyranny of the majority.

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## SCFA Board of Directors

SCFA welcomes Steve Brown to its board of directors and is pleased to announce the Doug Cramer has been elected vice president.

The board of directors meets monthly to discuss the future of SCFA. We plan meeting agendas, develop and implement advertising strategies, decide on social opportunities for our members and more.

If you have any input for the SCFA board of directors, please contact Dianna at [catspah@cfl.rr.com](mailto:catspah@cfl.rr.com) or use the contact form at our website, [www.spacecoastfreethought.org](http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org).

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## Space Coast Freethought Association

(SCFA) is a nonprofit community of reason-based individuals organized to facilitate social interaction, promote the non-theistic, rationalist viewpoint as a valid contribution to public discourse, reinforce the First Amendment guarantee of separation between government and religion through education and activism, and work in coalition with like-minded organizations where joint action is needed to achieve these goals.

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Join our discussion list online at  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SpaceCoast Freethought/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SpaceCoast%20Freethought/)  
And visit us on the web at [http://www.spacecoast freethought.org/](http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/)

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