

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

April 2007

Meeting April 1

Join us for our next meeting on **Sunday, April 1**, at 1:30, at **Melbourne Public Library**. We'll be discussing the Christian claim that April Food's Day is National Atheist Day.

Future Meetings

May's meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 3** at the National Day of Reason Dinner at 6:30 p.m. The dinner is tentatively planned for Back Bay Seafood Restaurant in the plaza on the corner of Stack Blvd. and Palm Bay Road in Palm Bay. **There will be no Sunday meeting in May.**

In June we will play the Trivial Pursuit of Church State Separation. Sunday June 3, at Melbourne Public Library.

Events

April 6-8
American Atheists Convention in Seattle
Washington. <http://www.atheists.org/convention/>

May 3
National Day of Reason Dinner
Back Bay Seafood.
4910 Stack Blvd. in Melbourne.
RSVP to catspah@cfl.rr.com.
<http://www.nationaldayofreason.org/>

October 12-14
Freedom From Religion Foundation Convention
Madison, Wisconsin
<http://ffrf.org/events/>

October 20
Freethought Day at Disney
Magic Kingdom, Orlando Florida
<http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/disney/>
(look for updates soon)

April Agenda

Past events:

Book Discussion

We had a great time discussing Sam Harris' *Letter to a Christian Nation* in March.

We're looking for more ideas for our socials. We'd like to get out and about, but need places to meet that are conducive to socializing in a large group. Please post your ideas to the email list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SpaceCoastFreethought/>

Upcoming events:

Adopt-a-Road clean up, Sunday, April 8

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

Annual Garage Sale

The SCFA annual garage sale will be held on **Saturday, April 14** at Dianna's house from 8:00 a.m. until about 2 p.m. If you'd like to help out any time that day, you are welcome to join the group.

We will have a pricing and organizing party on Friday, April 13. For more information contact Dianna at catspah@cfl.rr.com

Please donate all of your quality junk to our garage sale and help raise money for SCFA! Please limit clothing to special pieces only, like a special dress or a suit.

Donations may be brought to our April 1st meeting, and after that, directly to Dianna's house.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to read newspaper editorial pages and post letters and opinion pieces that need response to the Florida Writes for the Wall email list.

For more information go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FloridaWrites/>
Or contact Dianna at catspah@cfl.rr.com

Church-State Update

Supreme Court hears arguments on faith-based challenge (2/28)

In the case of *Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation*, the issue is whether taxpayer status alone gives someone standing to challenge government action as a violation of the First Amendment's establishment clause. The action in question was a series of conferences funded by President Bush's faith-based initiative, which in the view of the Wisconsin-based foundation of atheists and agnostics (FFRF), favored religious organizations over non-religious groups.

First openly nontheistic member of Congress comes out (3/12)

Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark, D-Calif., is the first openly "nontheistic" member of Congress, the Secular Coalition for America announced Monday, March 12. The coalition said Stark, who has represented San Francisco's East Bay since 1973, acknowledged his atheism in response to a questionnaire sent to public officials in January. In a statement, Stark said he is a "Unitarian who does not believe in a supreme being." He also said "I look forward to working with the Secular Coalition to stop the promotion of narrow religious beliefs in science, marriage contracts, the military and the provision of social service."

Purchase SCFA merchandise

<http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/store.html> and
<http://www.cafepress.com/scfreethought>

We have mugs, t-shirts, license plate covers, a fabulous Jefferson throw pillow, and our featured item:



The SCFA logo wall clock
Only \$12.99

This Month in History - April

The Good - Clarence Darrow was born, April 18, 1857. Darrow was an American trial lawyer, best known for defending John Scopes who was arrested for teaching evolution in school. He also defended many contentious types, including war protestors, organized labor, and accused murderers.

The Bad - For the first time in American history Congress passed a law on April 22, 1864 that required 1 and 2 cent pieces to acknowledge god. And so spawned the phrase "in god we trust." Interestingly, in Nazi Germany they came up with a similar phrase, "gott mit uns" (god with us).

For more info: <http://www.ronaldbrucemeyer.com/rants.htm>

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.

Join our discussion list online at
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SpaceCoastFreethought/>

Visit us on the web at <http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/>

Join SCFA! Annual membership is \$15 for one, \$25 for a family, and \$10 for seniors and students.

Join using our web form at
<http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/donate.html>

"If faith cannot be reconciled with rational thinking, it has to be eliminated as an anachronistic remnant of earlier stages of culture and replaced by science dealing with facts and theories which are intangible and can be validated."

Erich Fromme
