

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

July 2007

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 1

SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30pm at Melbourne Public Library on Fee Ave. We will host the second annual **First Amendment Celebration** where SCFA and many other local groups will read from the Constitution.

Sunday, July 22

Progressive Fest

1-5pm at Eau Gallie Civic Center in Melbourne. SCFA joins area progressive groups in this annual dinner/rummage sale/social event. *See our website for flyer.*

Sunday, August 5

SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30pm at Melbourne Public Library on Fee Ave. We will show **Richard Dawkins' film *The Root of All Evil***.

Sunday, August 15

SCFA Social - National Atheist Day Picnic

11:00am at Futch Park on the beach. Bring food to share and your beach gear. We will also be discussing *American Fascists* by Chris Hedges

September 28-30

Atheist Alliance Intl. Convention

Washington, D.C.

Sunday, October 7

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Will be held in the DeGroot Library in Palm Bay.

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/>

Want to keep informed of SCFA events? Join groups.yahoo.com/group/scfa_announce/

SCFA News

SCFA Joins American's United

In June SCFA became an associate member of American's United. AU is a strong leader in maintaining the separation between church and state and will be a useful resource for us.

New Telephone Number

SCFA has a new telephone number. 321-821-2791.

Book Drive Underway

If you have any used books that are of interest to freethinkers, such as books on the separation of church and state or atheism, bring them to any SCFA event for collection. SCFA will also be purchasing new books for local libraries who request them.

Purchase SCFA merchandise

www.spacecoastfreethought.org/store.html and www.cafepress.com/scfreethought

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



The "Freethinker" baseball jersey!
Only \$18.99.

Past Events

Monthly Social

In June we discussed ***The Jesus Machine* by Dan Gilgoff**. The book explained the history of the religious right during the last 50 years and how they came to play such a significant role in our current culture and politics. It is definitely a useful source of information for anyone wishing to understand the religious culture war that we are currently engulfed in. On a lighter note, we also had some pretty good snacks. Thanks for hosting, Steve!

Church-State Update

National

Wal-Mart bows to Religious Right, suspends support of gay groups (6/26)

Wal-Mart has decided to cease contributing to GLBT groups after the Religious Right outcry over their partnering with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, or NGLCC, an organization of more than 24,000 gay- and lesbian-owned businesses, as part of the retailer's stated "ongoing plan to advance diversity among all of its associate, supplier and customer bases."

Supreme Court rules that taxpayers can't sue over faith-based program (6/25)

The court majority ruled in *Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation* that taxpayers have no right to challenge discretionary spending by the executive branch.

Florida

St. Petersburg ministry says vote for Mitt Romney is vote for Satan (5/31)

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has asked the IRS to investigate a St. Petersburg, Fla., ministry that warned people not to vote for presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

Brevard

Brevard Public School abstinence-only sex education program under review

The abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum, First Defense, currently used in Brevard County schools, fails to give accurate information to teens regarding how to prevent pregnancy or STDs. The First Defense curriculum contains medically inaccurate information about condoms and gives no information whatsoever about other forms of contraception. School Board member Amy Kneessy is fighting to retain the program as-is, while others are in providing accurate information to students. The second curriculum review meeting is July 10th from 8:00am-4:00pm in the School District building at 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera.

SCFA Board of Directors

Dianna Narciso, president
Doug Cramer, vice president
Toni Sweeney, treasurer
Cameo Johnson-Cramer, secretary
Steven Brown
Mike Sweeney
Charles Trantham

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 us at spacecoastfreethought.org or use the contact form at our website, www.spacecoastfreethought.org.

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 groups.yahoo.com/group/SpaceCoastFreethought/

Join SCFA! Annual membership is \$15 for one, \$25 for a family, and \$10 for seniors and students. Join using our web form at www.spacecoastfreethought.org/donate.html

This Month in Freethought History

July 26, 1928, Stanley Kubrick was born.

"The whole idea of god is absurd. If anything, '2001' shows that what some people call 'god' is simply an acceptable term for their ignorance. What they don't understand, they call 'god'.... I chose to do Dr. Clark's story as a film because it highlights a critical factor necessary for human evolution; that is, beyond our present condition. This film is a rejection of the notion that there is a god; isn't that obvious?"