

# FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

August 2007

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, August 5

#### SCFA Monthly Meeting

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

### Saturday, August 18

#### 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.

### Sunday, September 2

#### SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30pm at Melbourne Public Library on Fee Ave. We will present an overview of **Cult Genealogy**.

### September 28-30

#### Atheist Alliance Intl. Convention

Washington, D.C., [atheistalliance.org/conventions](http://atheistalliance.org/conventions)

### Wednesday, October 3

#### The God Delusion Debate

Richard Dawkins debates John Lennox  
Birmingham, Alabama, [www.richarddawkins.net](http://www.richarddawkins.net)

### Sunday, October 7

#### SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30pm at **DeGroot** Library on Minton Rd. in Palm Bay. Our topic will be **Halloween**.

### October 12-14

#### Freedom From Religion Foundation Convention

Madison, Wisconsin, [www.ffrf.org/events/](http://www.ffrf.org/events/)

### October 20

#### Freethought Day at Disney

Magic Kingdom, Orlando Florida  
[www.spacecoastfreethought.org/disney/](http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/disney/)

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**Want to keep informed of SCFA events?** Join [groups.yahoo.com/group/scfa\\_announce/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scfa_announce/)

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## This Month in Freethought History

August 28, 1828, author Leo Tolstoy was born.

"Freethinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs." -- War and Peace

## SCFA News

### American's United "First Freedom First"

We are currently collecting signatures, asking for our officials to uphold the separation of church and state by demonstrating a commitment to:

- Americans making personal decisions -- about family life, reproductive health, end of life care and other matters of personal conscience
- American tax dollars not going to charities that discriminate in hiring based on religious belief or that promote a particular religious faith as a requirement for receiving services
- houses of worship not endorsing or opposing any political candidates
- public schools teaching with academic integrity and without the promotion of religious preference or belief
- basing decisions about scientific and health policies on the best available scientific data, not on religious doctrine.

Sign the petition at any SCFA meeting or the AU website, [www.au.org](http://www.au.org).

### Book Drive Underway

Remember to bring your used freethought books to any SCFA event for collection.

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## Purchase SCFA merchandise

[www.spacecoastfreethought.org/store.html](http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/store.html) and [www.cafepress.com/scfreethought](http://www.cafepress.com/scfreethought)

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



The SCFA License Place Frame!  
Only \$11.99.

## Church-State Update

### National

Religious protestors interrupt Hindu prayer in Senate (7/12)

Three protestors from the Christian Right anti-abortion group Operation Save America disrupted an invocation by a Hindu chaplain, shouting "this is an abomination."

### Florida

Anti-Gay Marriage Constitutional Amendment will be on November 2008 ballot (7/30)

Florida4Marriage.org almost has enough signatures to put gay marriage ban on ballot next year. Some opponents point out that banning same-sex marriage could cause courts to strip away other rights, such as domestic partnership benefits for heterosexual couples like elderly Floridians who may live together outside of marriage for convenience, economic or security reasons.

Palm Beach County School Board rejects mother's request to ban books on homosexuality, abortion and atheism from high school libraries (7/11).

Catholic Florida Town Opens (7/21)

The Catholic town of Ave Maria opened its gates to the public for the first time. It is the brainchild of Dominos Pizza founder Tom Monaghan, who built the town as part of his life-long dream. The town is centered around an 1,100-seat Roman Catholic church and a traditional Catholic university. No adult book stores or strip clubs adorn the town, and local businesses are urged not to sell contraceptives or birth control.

Hebrew Charter School May Cross Church-State Line (7/26)

A textbook that will be used by the Ben Gamla Charter School, a new kindergarten-through-eighth grade school scheduled to open in Hollywood in August, contains religious references ("Our Holy Torah is dear to us", "God created man on Friday", "Man is redeemed from his sins through repentance").

## Church-State Update con't

### Brevard

Brevard Public School sex ed panel recommends religious groups programs, rejects Planned Parenthood (7/10)

Superintendent DiPatri rejects recommendation in favor of teacher-led sex ed (7/17).

Melbourne nonprofit First Defense and Titusville church Apostolic Ministries of America Inc. were recommended to teach abstinence-only sex education to public school students in Brevard County, but the recommendation was rejected by the Superintendent. In August, the School Board will vote on the issue.

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### SCFA Board of Directors

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

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.

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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.

**Join our discussion list** online at [groups.yahoo.com/group/SpaceCoastFreethought/](http://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](http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/donate.html)