

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

January 2009

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 4

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne.

Topic: Morality and ethics of godless people

Sunday, January 11

SCFA Adopt-A-Road

10:00am at Palm Bay Rd. & Stack in Amscot parking lot.

Wednesday, January 14

Science Café - Topic: Cancer Research

6-8pm Brevard Zoo

www.brevardzoo.org/calendar

Saturday, January 17

Can the Internet Save the Enlightenment? By Nobel Laureate Dr. Sir Harry Kroto (hosted by Center for Inquiry)

11:00am - 1:00pm at University of South Florida

www.centerforinquiry.net/tampa/events/

Sunday, February 1

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne.

Topic: Roll of atheists in charities

Sunday, February 8

SCFA Adopt-A-Road

10:00am at Palm Bay Rd. & Stack in Amscot parking lot.

Saturday, February 14

Darwin Day

10am-4pm FL Museum of Natural History, Gainesville

www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar

Friday, February 27

Why People Believe Weird Things

8pm Auditorium in Olin Engineering Complex, FIT
cos.fit.edu/pss/aapls.php

Want to keep informed of SCFA events?

Join atheists.meetup.com/569/



Next meeting's talking points (Role of atheists in charities)



- Should atheists give to charities if there is no one commanding it?
- Should atheists give to charities with religious affiliations?
- Should atheists create their own charities?

Atheist New Year Resolutions

"Self-Reflection and Introspection:

It's easy to be skeptical and critical of others' ideas, but harder to exercise the same scrutiny of things we already believe. If we engage in self-reflection and introspection, we can skeptically examine the ideas we have accepted uncritically for so long. If our own ideas can't stand up to the same criticism which we apply to others' ideas, we're behaving hypocritically. The better we understand ourselves and why we believe things, the better we might understand others as well." - Austin Cline, atheism.about.com/od/aboutatheism/p/GodlessNewYear.htm

This Month in Freethought History



Martin Luther King, Jr., born Jan. 15, 1929

"Softmindedness often invades religion. This is why religion has sometimes rejected new truth with a dogmatic passion. Through edits and bulls, inquisitions and excommunications, the church has attempted to prorogue truth and place an impenetrable stone wall in the path of the truth-seeker."



Win a 7-day, 6-night trip for two to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador.
Raffle tickets only \$50 each.
www.freethoughtflorida.com/cruise.html



Church-State Update

A Report on Church-State Legal Issues Affecting Brevard County Citizens

National

[Atheists Sue to Get Prayer, God Out of Obama's Swearing-In \(12/31\)](#)

'A group of atheists, led by [Michael Newdow and the FFRF], filed a lawsuit ... to bar prayer and references to God at the swearing-in of President-elect Barack Obama ... According to the lawsuit, the opening and ending prayers "are completely exclusionary, showing absolute disrespect to Plaintiffs and others of similar religious views, who explicitly reject the purely religious claims that will be endorsed, i.e., (a) there exists a God, and (b) the United States government should pay homage to that God.'" – Washington Post

[Lawsuit on religion in military expanded \(12/29\)](#)

'The Military Religions Freedom Foundation and a Fort Riley, Kan., soldier suing Defense Secretary Robert Gates now allege that a bias toward evangelical Christianity pervades even the Army's suicide prevention manual and the Air Force's sponsorship of an evangelical motocross ministry. Chalker, a combat medic, is an atheist whose original complaints included being forced to attend military formations where Christian prayers were given.' – Kansas City Star

National Con't

[Military Reverses Bible Distribution Policy At Induction Centers \(12/18\)](#)

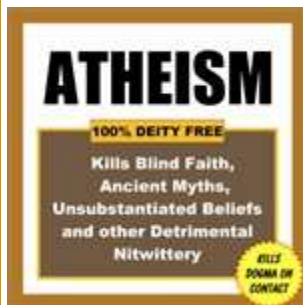
'After it was discovered that Gideons International was granted privileged access to distribute its Bibles at military induction facilities, the ACLU sent a letter to the commanding officer of [Military Entrance Processing Command] in August 2007 to determine the extent to which religious and non-religious organizations were permitted to circulate literature. The [MEPS]'s new rule establishes an equal access principle that allows organizations to provide secular or religious literature in the facilities to avoid the impression that the government is sponsoring, endorsing, or inhibiting religion generally, or favoring or disfavoring a particular religion.'" – ACLU

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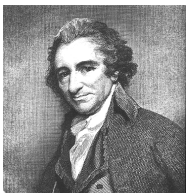
The Affable Atheist Store

www.cafepress.com/affable_atheist/
Shirts, mugs, calendars, and more



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.



Quote: Thomas Paine, born January 29, 1737

"I have always strenuously supported the right of every man to his own opinion, however different that opinion might be to mine. He who denies another this right makes a slave of himself to his present opinion, because he precludes himself the right of changing it."