

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

April 2009

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 5

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: House of Joe, 1220 W New Haven, W. Melbourne, (north side of Hwy 192)
Topic: Book discussion

Sunday, April 9–12

American Atheists National Convention, Atlanta, GA
Come see Richard Dawkins and many others. Plus they're having a mass de-baptism ceremony!
atheists.org/events/National_Convention

Sunday, April 12

SCFA Adopt-A-Road

10:00am at Palm Bay Rd. & Stack in Amscot parking lot (near Stack entrance).

Sunday, May 3

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne, small conference room by reference desk
Topic: Are atheists just as annoying as Christians?

Sunday, May 10

SCFA Adopt-A-Road

10:00am at Palm Bay Rd. & Stack in Amscot parking lot (near Stack entrance).

Want to keep informed of SCFA events & discussions? Join atheists.meetup.com/569/

9 in '09 (www.au.org)

Americans United has a "9 in '09" project to press the new administration to repair Bush's damage:

1. Restrict Faith-Based Funding
2. Ban Faith-Based Job Bias
3. Select Good Judges
4. Reform Justice Department
5. Stop School Vouchers
6. Protect Military Personnel
7. Defend Sound Science
8. Resist Church Politicking
9. Oppose Sectarian Symbolism



This meeting's talking points (Book discussion)



This is a good excuse to finally read that free-thought book you've been meaning to and discuss it with the rest of us. Or just come and get some ideas on what you might like to read next.

Next meeting's talking points (Are atheists just as annoying as Christians?)

- Are we too argumentative?
- Are we too dogmatic?
- Are we too demanding?
- How can we effectively make ourselves heard?



chrismadden.co.uk/wordpress/

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.



Church-State Update

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

National

Obama Lifts Bush's Strict Limits on Stem Cell Research (3/6)

'Pledging that his administration will "make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology," President Obama ... announced that he was issuing an executive order intended to advance [stem cell] research. He said he hoped Congress would follow with bipartisan legislation that would ease the existing restrictions even more.' – New York Times

Senate Rejects Indefinite Funding for D.C. Voucher Plan (3/10)

'The federally funded voucher plan was foisted on the District of Columbia by private school advocates in the Bush administration in 2004. The House of Representatives recently approved an omnibus spending bill that included language winding down the pilot program over the next year unless certain steps are taken. Those steps would include congressional reauthorization of funding and approval by the District of Columbia City Council. It is widely believed that these conditions would be difficult to meet, with the result that the program would end. U.S. Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.) put forward [an amendment] that would have stripped this language from the bill. The Ensign amendment ... failed by a tally of 58-39.' – au.org

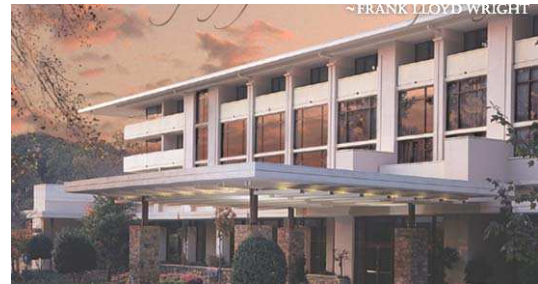
Obama Appoints Anti-Gay Marriage Advocate to Faith Council (3/31)

'Americans United for Separation of Church and State today expressed disappointment at the Obama administration's decision to ask former football coach Tony Dungy to serve on the president's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. ... Dungy, former coach of the Indianapolis Colts football team, has well-known ties with intolerant Religious Right groups. Dungy [has] supported an Indiana constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage and suggested that public policy ought to reflect religious doctrine. "I feel like telling people when they look at this issue of same-sex marriage . . . I'm not on anybody's side," Dungy said. "I'm on the Lord's side."' – au.org

Florida

Bill Would Allow Prayer at Public School Events (3/26)

'Sitting before the Florida Senate Education Committee is SB 1360, a bill that would authorize prayer at public school assemblies, athletic events, and other non-compulsory activities.' From the bill: 'District school boards are authorized, but not required, to permit the delivery of an inspirational message, including a prayer or invocation, at a non-compulsory high school activity, including a student assembly, a sports event, or other school-related activity, if a majority of the participating students request the delivery of an inspirational message and select a student representative to deliver the message.' – au.org



American Atheists National Convention

April 9 - 12, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

Confirmed Speakers:

- Ed Buckner: President, American Atheists, Inc.
- Richard Dawkins: Evolutionist/recognized author
- Michelle Goldberg: Noted Author, Journalist
- Mike Malloy: Nationally-syndicated talk radio personality
- Jim Morrow: Award-winning novelist
- Dr. J. Anderson Thomson: Psychiatrist, researcher, author
- Nate Phelps: Estranged son of Pastor Fred Phelps
- John Lombard: Beijing Secular Activist
- Herb Silverman: President of the Secular Coalition for America
- Pastor Brother Harry Hardwick (Comedy)
- Special Event
- "Mass De-baptism Ceremony and Blasphemy Event"