

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

June 2009

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 7

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave.
Melbourne, large conference room by entrance
Time: 1:30-3:30

Sunday, June 21

Meetup Eat-Up

Location: Longhorn Steakhouse, 6691 Lake Andrew Dr., Viera
Time: 1:30pm

Sunday, July 5

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave.
Melbourne, large conference room by entrance
Topic: Movie - Julia Sweeney, Letting Go of God
Time: 1:30-3:30

Sunday, July 19

Meetup Eat-Up

Location: TBD
Time: 1:30pm

Sunday, August 2

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave.
Melbourne, large conference room by entrance
Topic: TBD
Time: 1:30-3:30

Saturday, October 17

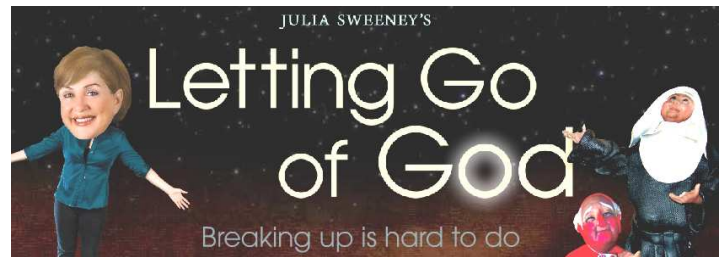
Freethought Day at Disney

Location: Magic Kingdom
Time: all day, we'll have planned meeting times to gather and be wearing lime green
freethoughtdayatdisney.org



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

Do you live near Stuart, FL?
Try the Stuart Atheists Meetup
atheists.meetup.com/600/



juliasweeney.com/letting_go_mini/

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.

SCFA Board of Directors

Doug Cramer, president
Bob Long, vice-president
Cameo Johnson-Cramer, secretary
Steven Brown
Mike Sweeney



Church-State Update

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

National

President Discontinues Annual Prayer Event at White House (5/5)

'Obama has indicated that he will sign a proclamation recognizing the National Day of Prayer [...], but that no special White House prayer service will be held. This stands in contrast to the George W. Bush administration that invited James and Shirley Dobson and other Religious Right leaders to the White House for an annual government-sponsored prayer service. The relationship appeared to give governmental endorsement to the Dobsons' National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private fundamentalist group that sponsors Christians-only prayer meetings around the country.' – Americans United

IRS Rules That Issues Advocacy is OK (5/13)

'The IRS said in a letter to the Niemoller Foundation that the Houston-based nonprofit organization did not violate its tax-exempt status when it brought together pastors and politicians to champion moral issues during Republican Gov. Rick Perry's 2006 re-election campaign. Short of endorsing a particular candidate or spending substantial portions of their nonprofit budgets on legislative lobbying, ministers and their churches are free to engage in political acts on behalf of moral values, the IRS said. Clergy are also free to encourage their congregations' members to get out the vote based on those issues and values.' – Washington Times

Resolution Introduced to Declare 2010 "The Year of the Bible" (5/22)

'Georgia Republican Paul Broun has introduced a bill in the United States House of Representatives that would designate all of 2010 "The Year of the Bible."' – Politics Daily



"People will then often say, 'But surely it's better to remain an Agnostic just in case?' ... If it turns out that I've been wrong all along, and there is in fact a god, and if it further turned out that this kind of legalistic, cross-your-fingers-behind-your-back, Clintonian hair-splitting impressed

him, then I think I would choose not to worship him anyway." -- Douglas Adams

National con't

Liberty University Drops Support of Democrats Club, AU files complaint with IRS (5/22)

'Liberty officials informed the president of the Democratic club that it is no longer eligible for university recognition, including funding through student activity fees. The goals of the Democratic Party, school officials insisted, are contrary to Liberty's evangelical Christian outlook. [...] "Liberty University is a tax-exempt institution and isn't allowed to support one party over another," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "If the school insists on pushing policies that favor Republicans over Democrats, it should have to surrender its tax exemption." In response to the AU complaint, Falwell filed a complaint against AU claiming that they are a "Democratic front group." – Americans United

White House Faith-Based Panel Holds First Meeting (6/4)

'Over the course of an hour, the 25-member advisory council outlined its broad mission--to find ways faith groups and government can work together on issues ranging from climate change to fatherless families to abortion rates--and a timeline to make recommendations for Obama to address those problems. Obama has divided the council into six task forces representing his priorities for the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships [... :] help ease poverty, support responsible fatherhood, bolster interfaith efforts, reform the faith-based office, address climate change, and help global poverty' – Washington Post

300+ have signed the wall. Have you?
spacecoastfreethought.org/brick.html

Space Coast Freethought Association
 A GROUP OF ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS, AND OTHER RATIONALISTS IN BREVARD COUNTY, FL
 "Gods are fragile things, they may be killed by a whiff of science or a dose of common sense." - Chapman Cohen

Virtual Wall of Separation between Church and State

Show your support by [signing the wall](#)

- They are called a "lamb" for a reason. Let this be seen as my declaration that I will not follow like a lamb to the slaughter of irrational thought — [Matthew Vincent, Carthage, NY](#)
- Skepticity supports a strong wall between Church and State! — [Skepticality, Roswell, GA](#)
- Mr. Jefferson, build up that wall! — [Thomas McDiode, Dallas, TX](#)

(To read more comments click (or hover) on a name with an ****
 Firefox, unfortunately, will only show a partial comment on the mouseover)

James W. Waver Palm Bay, FL	John C. Cocco, FL	James D** Palm Bay, FL	John Cocco, FL
JC C** Coffersville	Michael Legge Aukora, Turkey	Marford B. Edmonton, Alberta	Carl Wheeler Palm Bay, FL
Yohya E. Plantation, FL	Borhelo Melbourne, FL	Steve K. Tucson, AZ	Tyler P** Trusville, FL
Kevin K.	Carole M.	Liz K**	Kenneth M.
			Jared Miller