

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

September 2009

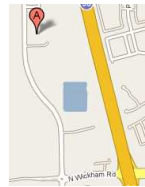
Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 6

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne, large conference room by entrance

Time: 1:30-3:30



Sunday, September 13

Meetup Eat-Up

Location: Chili's, Viera (I95-Viera exit, W on Wickham, N on Lake Andrew)

Time: 1:30pm

Friday, September 25

Dinner and a Lecture: "Heliosheath - Voyager's Trek into the Interstellar Medium"

Location: Dinner - Middle Eastern Aromas, 3150 S Babcock St # E, Melbourne

Lecture: 150 W. University Blvd, Olin Eng. Auditorium

Time: Dinner - 6:30pm, Lecture - 8:00pm

cos.fit.edu/pss/aapls.php



October 2 - 4

Atheist Alliance Int'l. Convention

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Speakers: Bill Maher, Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett

atheistconvention.org



Sunday, October 4

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. small conference room right of reference desk

Time: 1:30-3:30

Saturday, October 17

Freethought Day at Disney

Location: Magic Kingdom

Time: all day, planned meeting times to gather - wear lime green

freethoughtdayatdisney.org



November 6 - 8

Freedom From Religion Ntnl. Conv.

Location: Seattle, WA

Speakers: Ron Reagan, Ursula K. LeGuin, Barry Kosmin, & sociologist Phil Zuckerman. ffrf.org



George Ricker

George Ricker, one of the founders of SCFA and a great friend to all who knew him, passed away this month. He will be missed.

George was a very prolific writer on church-state and freethought issues. He wrote two books, *Godless in America: conversations with an atheist* and *mere atheism: no gods...no problem!* and maintained his website godlessinamerica.com that has many essays and other writings. He also contributed many articles to our newsletter over the years, many of which are available on his website.

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

Bill Hunter

Mike Sweeney

SCFA Adopts Science Class



We have recently adopted the 5th grade Science Resource Room at Sabal Elementary on Wickham Rd. This school is in a low income area and scores lower than all other schools in the region in science. We would like to raise \$2,000 for their science improvements. Donations can be made at meetings or online at spacecoastfreethought.org/donate. What better way is there to encourage critical thinking than by teaching science?



Church-State Update

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

National

NIH's new chief pledges to lead research agency 'as a scientist' (8/18)


'Newly sworn-in National Institutes of Health chief Francis Collins, who founded an institute in May aimed at nurturing the coexistence of science and religion, announced Monday he had resigned from his foundation to focus on his research chief duties. "I want to reassure everyone I am here to lead the NIH as best I can, as a scientist," Collins said, noting Internet and editorial page concerns about Collins, as an evangelical Christian, leading a science organization.' – *Pew Forum*

Federal Appeals Court Invalidates Endorsement Of Religious Materials At Postal Counter (8/20)

'[The U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals] ruled that a Manchester church violated the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution by placing religious displays at the counter of a contract postal unit (CPU) it operates. [...] The case was filed on behalf of Bertram Cooper, a Manchester resident for whom the CPU, operated by the Full Gospel Interdenominational Church, was the closest location at which he could conduct his postal business. The ACLU argued that the church unconstitutionally endorsed one particular religious viewpoint by pervasively displaying a variety of religious material inside the CPU, which the church operated as an extension of the federal government.' – *ACLU*



(Don't Need) Religion
by Motorhead *Iron Fist* (1982)



I don't need no blind belief
I don't need no comic relief
I don't need to see no scars
I don't need Jesus Christ Superstar
Don't need no Sunday Television
You bet your life I don't need religion.

and I'll tell something else...
I don't need no time for prayer
Don't save no knee-pads for me up there
If your head's alright,
Ya don't need binoculars to see the light.
You don't need no miracle vision,
You bet your life we don't need religion.

I don't need no Santa Claus
And I don't believe in fairies no more
I don't need to go to confession
I'm already trying to fight depression
I don't need no exorcism
Bet your life I don't need religion.

National Con't

High Court Asked to Review Religious Graduation Speech Case (8/30)

'The U.S. Supreme Court is being asked to review the decision of a lower court that affirmed that there was no constitutional violation in the case a high school valedictorian who shared about Jesus Christ in the course of her graduation speech. Fla.-based legal group Liberty Counsel filed the request this past week on behalf of Erica Corder after the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the ruling of a district court, which said it was not improper for Lewis-Palmer High School in Monument, Colo., to force Corder to apologize for her 2006 speech as it was "school-sponsored." According to Liberty Counsel, Corder was escorted to the assistant principal's office after deviating from her prepared speech for Lewis-Palmer's 2006 graduation ceremony and inviting the audience to learn more about Jesus Christ. [...] In response to Corder's statement, Principal Mark Brewer said the valedictorian's diploma would be withheld from her unless she issued a public apology for her actions. But even when she did, Corder was still not allowed to graduate. Corder wasn't issued a diploma until she added the sentence: "I realize that, had I asked ahead of time, I would not have been allowed to say what I did.'" – *Christian Post*

Florida

Florida's gay adoption ban now in hands of appeals court (8/26)

'A Miami appeals court heard arguments [8/24] in a case that could overturn Florida's 32-year-old law banning adoption by gay men and lesbians. The three-judge panel will decide the fate of two half-brothers who say they want to be adopted by the foster father who's raised them since 2004. The foster father, Martin Gill of North Miami, can't adopt under state law because he's gay. [...] In November, Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Cindy Lederman Lederman declared Florida's ban on adoption by gay men and lesbians unconstitutional. Lederman's ruling allowed Gill, who has been in a long-term relationship with a partner, to adopt the two brothers.' – *Miami Herald*

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