

As many of you know, the recent *Center for Inquiry* (CFI) 2007 Florida conference was videotaped, and there were also many still photographs taken as well.

The still photos are available by going to www.pictage.com/293552, and can be ordered in various sizes. *Pictage* is one of the world's premier professional photo labs.

We had also planned on making videos available at the same site, and they are, but accessing them is rather confusing (*Pictage* is set up for photos, not videos); in addition, *Pictage* automatically adds shipping charges to all orders and we had originally planned to include shipping in our video prices. So, we're setting it up so that orders can be taken directly by sending an e-mail to aim@aimzoom.com and payment can be made via Paypal or by sending a check/MC.

Each video is \$10 plus tax (can't escape the Guv, I'm afraid), or the entire set of 11 (including the Science Report) can be ordered for \$107 (including tax) on DVD (or VHS, if you insist). These videos are single-camera, with all the limitations therein, but are generally clear and with good sound quality. Each video is approximately one hour long. The DVDs have chapter points every five minutes, so you can locate particular parts quickly and easily.

Individual videos (\$10.70 including tax) should be ordered by last name of the speaker. For the benefit of those who could not attend, I've added some notes on the changes that took place, and put speakers in the order they appeared. (The original list is available at

CLASSIFIEDS

We need your input and help!

Send your ad information to the editor—Michael Harvey at mharvey@tampabay.rr.com; or Ed Golly at AthAIFLE@aol.com.

Godless in America: *conversations with an atheist* by George A. Ricker is now available at most book retailers and online book sellers. For more information about the book and its author, go to www.godlessinamerica.com.

Guitar / Music Lessons:

College-trained musician with many years performance experience in numerous styles of playing. Contact Michael at (813) 545-1071 or via email—OrpheusObject@hotmail.com

Atheists of Florida CHAPTER MEETINGS

TAMPA BAY: **Pinellas Park Public Library—Second Sunday of each odd-numbered month** (Jan., Mar., etc.), 1:30—4:30. 78th Ave North & 52nd Street.

Tampa—Second Sunday of each even-numbered month, 1:30-4:30, various locations in Northwest Tampa area. Social dinners follow all meetings at nearby cafeterias. Call or email for venue information. FM: Ed Golly, 813/835-1500, AthAIFLE@aol.com.

<http://www.cfiflorida.org/events/florida-conference-speaking-2007.pdf>

If not paid through *Paypal*, payments may be sent to:

Aristry In Motion, Inc.

35 Ginger Circle / Leesburg, FL 34748

For additional information or questions, contact Brent:

Phone—352-217-3578

Email—www.aimzoom.com

Upcoming Events to put on your Calendar!

Special Mid-Year Meeting

We are trying to get a feel for the feasibility of having a special mid-year meeting. We would like to reserve the space at *Banquet Masters*, on the second Sunday in July, at \$15.00 per person. At least 30 people will need to commit to this event, and ideally we'd like to know as soon as possible. If / when we can get the minimum of 30 people to confirm, we can book the room—the sooner, the better. To inquire further, please contact either Gloria Julius at glojulus@msn.com, or Joe Reinhardt at joerein@tampabay.rr.com.

On the lighter side.

And BANG! ends the world, then a whimper; back to a primordial simmer.

It could all start anew, in a primeval stew, but my hopes aren't much more than a glimmer.

Meetup

St. Pete-Atheists // Free-Thought Group

IN REASON WE TRUST

GARY THOMPSON, Organizer
Monthly Meetup Day: Third Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com
<http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

Yes, that's right, get together with other atheists / freethinkers at the St. Pete Atheist / Free-thought every third Tuesday of each month for good food, good drink, engaging dialog, and lotto tickets!

Fine American-made, Hand-crafted jewelry (great gifts for any occasion—Secular, Pagan or otherwise!:

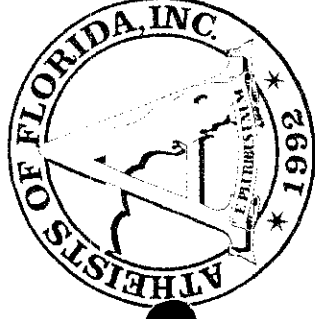
If you're looking for that special one-of-a-kind piece for yourself or that special someone, take a look at the Swarovski crystal, pearl, amethyst, turquoise, jade and other gorgeous gemstone bracelets, necklaces, and earrings available from TRACY'S TRES CHIC. Tracy Thomas, Jewelry Artisan, 727-235-3220. mschacha@tampabay.rr.com.

Photography/Videoography Services: Artistry In Motion, Inc.—Specializes in wedding and event photography and videoography - and we would LOVE to do a few weddings where no one blathered on about how their god would make the marriage better! Find out more at www.aimzoom.com

Atheists of Florida

Dedicated to the absolute separation of State and church

A Founding Member Society of the Atheist Alliance International
(The Democratic Alliance of Autonomous Atheist Societies)



Volume XIII No. 6 May 2007

Love, Devotion, Respect, Commitment, Atheism!

TAMPA, FL—On Thursday, March 29th, 2007, history was made as *The Atheist Forum* broadcast the first atheist wedding live on television! John Kieffer and Diana Wester exchanged extraordinary vows and were married in what can only be described as a touching and unpretentious ceremony that made this editor proud to be an atheist.

Honorable mention and gratitude must be given to a few other people, who played important roles as well: Joe Reinhardt (officiator), Ed Golly (producer); Nan Owens (camera); Rob Curry (control room); Tracy Thomas (maid of honor); and Carlos Coronado (best man). A special thank you must go to Margaret Downey, President of *Atheist Alliance International*, for providing much of the secular celebrant text that was used as the basis for John's and Diana's ceremony. My sincere apologies to anyone whose name I neglected to mention. Now, it is my honor, to present the full text of the ceremony here.

Though there is much joy here this evening, this ceremony takes place in light of the sad truth that not all loving couples, simply by virtue of gender and sexual orientation, are granted the same rights as we to bind in a way that is officially and legally recognized. As we proceed with this ritual we do so in total disagreement with the intolerance of present state laws in this respect. Having acknowledged this reality, we gather here this evening in Tampa to witness the marriage ceremony of Diana and John.

Tracy and Carlos, you were requested to witness this ceremony because Diana and John care about you. They trust you, and they need you to be near them during this special time. They invoke your support, your approval, your love, and your good will towards this new marriage.

Out of the billions of people who inhabit our planet, the five of us have come together to participate in the marriage ceremony of two unique individuals. Out of billions of people in the world, Diana and John found and chose each other. They have decided that life will be better if they spend it together as husband and wife. As an Atheist couple, Diana and John realize that there is only one life. Life choices, therefore, must be weighed carefully and much consideration should be given to decisions that may alter and significantly impact our lives.

We all have freedom of choice and that is what makes the union of Diana and John so very special. Diana and John have already begun their journey together. They have enjoyed the exhilaration of finding one another and they have struggled through many difficulties together.

This ceremony connotes the end of that beginning and marks a new beginning—the beginning of a committed lifetime journey. Diana and John, you have arrived at a most critical juncture

—the beginning of a journey that will require each of you to fully enter into each others experience and care for each other in exceptional ways. This self-transcendence is a prerequisite for further personal growth.

In a good marriage each person is continually growing while growing in understanding of the other. This kind of love and intimacy enables each to relate to others more meaningfully.

Every intimacy makes the whole world different and opens one up to the world's reality rather than protecting one from it.

Please take a handful of rose petals and as you toss the rose petals outward, declare yourselves better able to embrace the world as partners. Enjoy not only the perfume of one another, but the sweetness of nature and humanity. With the tossing of the rose petals you have demonstrated your enthusiasm for nature and your acknowledgment that Atheists seek renewal from nature.

Together, you now embark on a quest for meaningful experiences and social connections outside of traditional institutions. Have no fear and do not allow the ways of the unenlightened to give you unease. Atheists also desire support from their family and the humanist community—both near and far.

Atheists use reason and common sense as their guide. When emotion and intellect combine they provide the foundation of profound love. Marriage is a cooperative venture in every sense. It is a relationship based on love, respect, and a determination on the part of both wife and husband to adjust to each others temperaments and moods in health or sickness—joy or sadness—ease or hardship.

Diana and John, the reality is that everyone's life is limited to a finite amount of time. As Atheists, we agree with Robert G. Ingersoll who said, "The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make others happy." Take the time to make your partner feel special. Never take each other for granted. Take the time to listen and to share. Give each other the benefit of the doubt because communication will be different at times and misunderstandings are inevitable. It takes time, effort, courage, and commitment to make a successful marriage. Take the time to negotiate, to talk about your fears, failures, and disappointments. Talk about each other's expectations, hopes, and dreams. Be flexible and willing to adapt well to changes and new circumstances. Above all, take the time to tell each other what you want. Take the risk of being vulnerable with each other. (Continued on page 3)

Atheism is nothing more than the noises reasonable people make when in the presence of religious dogma.
—Sam Harris (*An Atheist Manifesto*)

With no approval or permission from any gods, deities or other imaginary invisible aliens, I hereby declare Diana and John to be husband and wife...

You will never finish building your relationship and together you will find new ways to nourish each other's lives while finding greater happiness and meaning in your own. Diana and John, please look deeply into each others eyes.



John, please commit to Diana by repeating after me: *As your husband and your friend, I promise that I will stand by you In sickness and in health. For better and for worse. For richer and for poorer, For as long as we both shall live.*

What token do you offer Diana as a symbol of your commitment? Do you, John take Diana to be your wife and pledge to her your respect and faithful love from this day forward?

Please place Diana's ring on her finger.

Diana please commit to John by repeating after me: *As your wife and your friend, I, Diana, promise that I will stand by you, In sickness and in health. For better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, For as long as we both shall live.*

What token, Diana, do you offer John as a symbol of your commitment to him? Do you Diana take John to be your husband and pledge to him your respect and faithful love from this day forward?

Please place John's ring on his finger

You will be reminded each day of your commitment to this marriage with the wearing of your wedding ring.

Words are powerful but fleeting. The wedding ring, therefore, becomes the enduring symbol of the promise we have just heard.

Diana and John, you have formalized in our presence the existence of the bond of love between you vowing to be loyal and loving toward one another. In expressing your affirmations, you have pronounced yourself husband and wife.



With abiding confidence and affection, Tracy, Carlos and I send you forth upon your journey in life together



With no approval or permission from any gods, deities or other imaginary invisible aliens, I hereby declare Diana and John to be husband and wife each to love, honor, and cherish the other for the rest of their lives. Please embrace and kiss for the first time as united individuals.



Closing notes:

The lovely bride—Diana, indicated that her choice of peacock feathers for her bouquet was symbolic of Darwin's theory of sexual selection. The wedding cake was an evolution cake and, the bride also wore a Darwin fish on her garter!

Speaking on behalf of *Atheists of Florida*, I would, again like to extend my congratulations and very best wishes to the bride and groom, for a long life together, filled with love, respect, and prosperity—MH

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