



**2022  
Annual  
Progress  
Report**

**cfi**  **CENTER FOR  
INQUIRY**

Reason • Science • Secular Values

## Message from the President & CEO



Who would have thought that science needed a PR agent?

Yet after years of science-denialism and anti-vax propaganda, it is clear that science needs an advocate. CFI's ScienceSaves campaign is an unalloyed celebration of the wonders of science and an effort to get people to appreciate the benefits that science has brought to their lives.

In 2022, CFI was able to get fourteen states plus the District of Columbia to issue proclamations marking March 26 as National Science Appreciation Day. That

was the day that Jonas Salk announced the success of the polio vaccine trials. Parents the world over went from terrified that their children could be struck to being reassured that their children were safe. Unlike breath-wasting prayers, science did that.

Bertha Vazquez, CFI's director of education, employed a team of master teachers to design ScienceSaves curriculum that reinforces the value of science to our health, nutrition, sanitation, and comfort for students across the United States. For instance, in a math class on mapping data points, students use the startling reductions in child mortality to create a chart showing the impact of medical science and vaccine development on childhood survival.

ScienceSaves held a video contest for college-bound high school students with a \$10,000 top prize. We received hundreds of thirty-second videos on how science benefited someone they know. These social-media-share-worthy videos are a form of peer-to-peer influencing, enlisting young people as ambassadors for science.

What we know from the letters we and Richard Dawkins receive is that increasing understanding of and appreciation for science pays dividends in the promotion of rationality around the world.

CFI embarked on this effort on top of quite a lot of other astounding work we accomplished in 2022. Our focus, as it has always been, is on protecting the separation of church and state, fighting on behalf of the rights of non-believers in the United States and abroad, and confronting pseudoscience wherever it arises.

CFI has a vigorous legal program under the direction of Nicholas Little, CFI's legal director. But the news on the church-state-separation front is roundly depressing, as every secular group will tell you. CFI is still succeeding in getting nonbelievers equality under the law—the one place we still see the possibility of court wins. But where CFI stands apart, and is seeing demonstrable legal progress, is in our fight against pseudoscience and its damaging effects.

Last year, we launched the Office of Consumer Protection from Pseudoscience. The idea is to reinforce what those of us at CFI already know: pseudoscience is a form of consumer fraud. In the medical field especially, it takes people's hard-earned money and jeopardizes their health.

Our ongoing, full-on assault on the medical quackery that is homeopathy got a boost when an appellate court in Washington, D.C., ruled that our lawsuits against the megacorporations CVS and Walmart can move ahead. We sued these retail drug giants for the way they market homeopathic products on store shelves right alongside evidence-based medicine. In other words: It's game on!

CFI's promotion of skepticism is not just about debunking ghosts and Bigfoot. These days conspiracy theories and misinformation rob people of their ability to see the truth, hobbling their critical thinking and common sense. CFI is at the forefront of arming people against the lure of conspiracy rabbit holes and the dangers that lurk within them.

Our Young Skeptics program is teaching young people to be on the lookout for online efforts to deceive. It's showing them how easy it is to get taken for a ride and how to spot a fake.

Religion, frankly, is just another form of pseudoscience in that it is built on claims about the nature of reality grounded in nonsense and devoid of evidence. Laying bare these frauds—all of them—is what CFI does. It's all under the CFI umbrella.

Since the mid-1970s when Carl Sagan, Isaac Asimov, James "The Amazing" Randi, and Paul Kurtz envisioned an organization that would challenge the pervasive nonsense beliefs that held the public in their sway, CFI has been on the frontlines of bringing the light of reason to the masses.

We thank you for helping us accomplish this mission over so many years. Unlike other secular groups that have expanded their mission to the point of dilution, adopting every politically popular liberal issue as their own, CFI will stay laser focused on the job ahead: promoting reason, science, and secularism.

As you read through this Progress Report, please know that you and those like you—our supporters—are how we are able to accomplish so much.

We literally could not do it without you. Thank you!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn Blumner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Robyn Blumner

Light does many things. It illuminates the dark. It provides warmth and comfort. It serves as a beacon to others, and it helps us find our way.

Light doesn't cower in the face of darkness. It simply shines, as warm and as bright and as far as it can. And when enough light is brought together, it can vanquish the dark completely.

The Center for Inquiry was created to share the light of reason, science, freethought, and secular humanism. It is our mission to use that light to push back against the shadows of misinformation, irrationality, and creeping theocracy in every corner of the globe. To shine, unafraid, as a beacon of freethought and reason.

That is what we've always done.

That is what we continue to do.



**Light Shines  
Unafraid**

# Holding Peddlers of Junk Science Accountable

*“CFI’s mission-driven opposition to homeopathy as a pseudoscience and CFI’s efforts to remove homeopathic drugs from the market show that ... CFI both is organized and operates to promote the interests of those who would be consumers of ‘ineffective’ homeopathic products.”*

— Senior Judge  
**Phyllis D. Thompson,**  
U.S. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COURT OF APPEALS



The Center for Inquiry continued—and aggressively expanded—its effort to educate and protect consumers from junk homeopathic products. Homeopathy is pseudoscience dressed up as “alternative medicine,” an industry that bilks consumers out of billions of dollars every year with little or no regulatory oversight.

Successfully fighting homeopathy promoters means engaging on multiple fronts, and that’s just what we did throughout 2022.

- **Producers:** CFI filed a groundbreaking lawsuit against **Boiron, Inc.**, one of the largest manufacturers of homeopathic products in the world, for deceiving vulnerable consumers with useless products dressed up to look like real medicine.
- **Peddlers:** Major retailers make big money off the sale of homeopathic “treatments” to desperate people, parents, and pet owners. CFI won a major appeal in its lawsuits against **Walmart** and **CVS** over their deceptive marketing and sale of homeopathic products. CFI also put online retail giant **Amazon** and popular pet supply retailer **Chewy.com** on notice that their promotion of homeopathic junk would not be tolerated.
- **Patients:** CFI launched a new **Office of Consumer Protection from Pseudoscience** designed to provide a one-stop shop for consumers to learn about the physical and financial harms of homeopathy. It also hosts an online portal through which consumers can submit complaints about pseudoscience practitioners and products they encounter locally. The portal also includes details for contacting state consumer protection offices.



(Left to right): Banacheck, Deyvi Peña, Tyler Measom, Massimo Polidoro, Richard Wiseman. Photo credit: Karl Withakay

*“If ever there was a cultural moment for CSICon, this is it. ... I look at the in-person return of CSICon as a rallying point for the reality-based community to come together and fight back against all the nonsense.”*

— **Barry Karr**, Executive Director of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry

## **CSICon 2022: A Timely Return**

Crucial to the continued health and vitality of the skeptical community is the opportunity to come together in person with those who share a commitment to reason and science. After a two-year COVID-mandated hiatus, the world’s foremost skeptics’ conference made its in-person return in 2022.

CSICon 2022 was held October 20–23 at the Flamingo Hotel Las Vegas. The event brought together many of the best-known and brightest minds in science and skepticism for the purpose of promoting science, reason, and humanist values. Hundreds of people from across the United States traveled to Las Vegas to participate and enjoy hearing from a remarkable lineup of well-known artists, intellectuals, scientists, and scholars.



Barry Karr. Photo credit: Karl Withakay

# Celebrating the Legacy of Thomas Paine



*“Paine inspired us to conceive of ourselves as a nation—and not just any nation but one built on the ideals of the Enlightenment where the people govern themselves. Ultimately we all became beneficiaries of that common inheritance.”*

— **Robyn Blumner**,  
CFI President and CEO

Thomas Paine was a man ahead of his time: a champion of Enlightenment values, reason, humanism, the abolition of slavery, and many other worthy causes. His *Common Sense*, published in the run-up to the American Revolution, convinced a wavering public to support America’s fight for independence. Paine was a hero to many American icons, such as Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and Benjamin Franklin.

It is a historic and symbolic wrong that Thomas Paine has been “the forgotten Founder” with no statue or memorial in his honor in our nation’s capital.

In February, Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), a member of the Congressional Freethought Caucus, introduced H.B. 6720 to authorize a memorial of Thomas Paine, “The forgotten Founding Father,” in Washington, D.C. CFI lobbied vigorously in support of H.B. 6720 throughout the year; the memorial was finally approved as part of the omnibus federal spending bill President Biden signed into law on December 29.

## Yearly Statistics



**5.5 Million**

CFI websites 2022 total pageviews /  
459,100 average monthly pageviews



**83,100**

CFI email subscribers /  
**21,500** RDFRS subscribers

# Skepticism—Not Afraid to Be Dangerous

“Skepticism is dangerous. That’s exactly its function, in my view. It is the business of skepticism to be dangerous. ... How will we negotiate a very perilous future if we don’t have the elementary intellectual tools to ask searching questions of those nominally in charge, especially in a democracy?”

— Carl Sagan, Founding Member of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry

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Humanity has always had to deal with hucksters, be they cult leaders, conspiracy theorists, shamans, psychics, or snake oil salesmen.

In the age of the internet, it’s easier than ever for nonsense to take root in the popular consciousness and spread quickly. So it’s more important than ever to stand against the misinformation tide and promote truth, facts, and critical thinking. The Center for Inquiry is meeting the challenge of the social media age, pushing back across the board on misinformation, magical thinking, and nonsense.



# The Road to CSICon 2022

For those who weren't able to attend in person, CFI posted long-form recaps of the main stage presentations. And look forward to free online videos of select CSICon 2022 talks coming in 2023. In addition, Rob Palmer created a series of "Anticipating CSICon 2022" video interviews for the *Skeptical Inquirer* website, featuring conference presenters, including:

THE CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO SCIENCE & REASON

# CSiCON

## LAS 2022 VEGAS



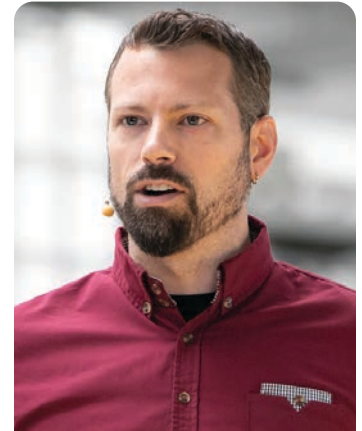
Timothy Caulfield



Natalia Pasternak



Susan Gerbic



Nathan H. Lents



Joseph Uscinski



Kenny Biddle



Odaelys Walwyn-Pollard



Naomi Oreskes



Richard Wiseman



Massimo Polidoro



Penn Jillette



Neil deGrasse Tyson

# Richard Dawkins Award Presented to Neil deGrasse Tyson

The Center for Inquiry presents the Richard Dawkins Award annually to a distinguished individual from the worlds of science, scholarship, education, or entertainment who publicly proclaims the values of secularism and rationalism, upholding scientific truth wherever it may lead. This year's recipient was iconic astrophysicist and science communicator **Neil deGrasse Tyson**.

Presenting the award at CSICon 2022, **Richard Dawkins** praised his longtime friend for his "graceful wit coupled with robust, no-nonsense intelligence." The two legendary scientists then spent just over an hour in conversation about a variety of topics.



Photo credit: Brian Engler



Photo credit: Brian Engler

# Balles Prize in Critical Thinking Presented to Natalia Pasternak

Another CSICon tradition is the presentation of the Balles Prize in Critical Thinking, which the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry presents annually to the creator of the published work that best communicates the importance of skepticism and empirical science. This year's recipient, whom CSI Executive Director **Barry Karr** introduced as a "juggernaut of critical thinking," was Brazilian science writer and microbiologist **Natalia Pasternak**.



Ken Frazier and his wife, Ruth

## Honoring an Icon: Kendrick Frazier (1942–2022)

*Skeptical Inquirer* magazine is the flagship publication of the skeptical community. Its history dates back to the earliest days of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP).

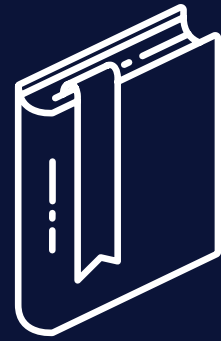
One man who was on-hand to witness the birth of that movement soon became its chief chronicler. **Kendrick Frazier** served as the editor of *Skeptical Inquirer* for almost all its forty-six-year history. The acclaimed science writer and skeptic died on November 7, 2022, following a brief illness.

The entire CFI family was heartbroken by the sudden loss of our beloved colleague and friend.

Ken knew how vital the work of combating disinformation and pseudoscience remains, even without him there to lead the charge. In a moving farewell essay to *Skeptical Inquirer* readers, he wrote:

*"Skepticism has taken on an importance and relevance even greater than in earlier times. New generations of scientific skeptics are moving into positions of influence. I have no qualms about their being up to the task and only wish I could journey along with all of you a while longer."*

As we look to the future, we are pleased to know that *Skeptical Inquirer* continues in good hands. **Stuart Vyse**, a noted behavioral psychologist, teacher, and writer who has been a contributing editor and columnist for *Skeptical Inquirer*, is now the magazine's interim editor.



18,300

*Skeptical Inquirer* copies in circulation  
(print, digital, newsstand)



## Skeptical Inquirer Presents 2022 Events

**Steven Pinker** — Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters (January 6)

**Paul Offit** — You Bet Your Life: The Long and Risky History of Medical Innovation (January 20)

**Susan Gerbic** — Herding Cats: Organizing Skepticism Online (February 3)

**Sean Castin** — FERC and FERCalicious: “The Most Important Organization You’ve Never Heard Of” (February 17)

**Timothy Caulfield** — Infodemic: How the Hell Did It Get This Bad? (March 3)

**Kenny Biddle** — The Skeptic Investigators (March 17)

**Edzard Ernst** — Charles, The Alternative Prince: An Unauthorised Biography (March 31)

**Barbara Hofer, Gayle Sinatra** — Science Denial: Why It Happens and What to Do about It (April 14)

**Melanie Trecek-King** — A Life Preserver for Staying Afloat in a Sea of Misinformation (April 28)

**Stuart Vyse** — The Uses of Delusion: Why It’s Not Always Rational to Be Rational (May 12)

**Carl Bergstrom, Jevin West** — Calling Bullshit: The Art of Skepticism in a Data-Driven World (May 26)

**Nicholas Little** — Pseudoscience and the Law— Why Doesn’t the Government Stop the Charlatans? (June 9)

**Benjamin Radford** — America the Fearful: Navigating the Media’s Phantom Fears (June 23)

**Kermit Pattison** — Fossil Men: The Quest for the Oldest Skeleton and the Origins of Humankind (July 7)

**Robert Bartholomew** — Why Mass Hysteria Is Thriving in the 21st Century (July 21)

**John Allen Paulos** — Who’s Counting? Uniting Numbers and Narratives (August 4)

**Tamar Haspel** — The Elephant in the Room: Why Facts Don’t Change Minds, and What to Do about It (August 18)

**Richard Dawkins and Jerry Coyne** — Flights of Fancy: Defying Gravity by Design and Evolution (September 1)



Richard Dawkins and Jerry Coyne



10,000

Total live attendees /  
1,448 most attendees (Steven Pinker)

## Skeptical Inquirer Presents: Critical Thinking Available Online

*Skeptical Inquirer Presents* is a series of free, live online conversations with an array of experts in science, investigation, medicine, media, communication, and advocacy. First launched in 2020 as a way to keep the skeptical community connected during the COVID-19 lockdowns, *Skeptical Inquirer Presents* quickly became a durable, highly engaging franchise all its own.

Following each event, the videos are posted on the *Skeptical Inquirer* website and the Center for Inquiry YouTube channel to make these valuable conversations available on-demand to skeptics and critical thinkers everywhere.

# Kenny Biddle Named Chief Investigator

In September 2022, CFI's Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI) named **Kenny Biddle** to the position of chief investigator for CSI. Biddle will take on the mysteries and unexplained phenomena from all over the world in an effort to provide a rational explanation based on science, critical thinking, and solid detective work.

As chief investigator, Biddle will also work with CFI's Education Department to develop lesson plans in critical thinking based on paranormal investigations; he'll also work with CFI's Office of Consumer Protection from Pseudoscience, pushing back on dangerous nonsense such as homeopathy and anti-vaccination programs.



(Left to right): Morgan Walsh, Matt Walsh, Jim Underdown



Kenny Biddle

## CFI Investigations Group

For more than twenty years, the **CFI Investigations Group** (CFI-IG) has conducted major investigations into extraordinary claims from faith healers such as Benny Hinn, bogus California nursing practices, and TV psychics such as John Edward and James van Praagh. CFIIG also hosts the largest active prize offer for proof of paranormal ability.

In 2022, the Investigations Group tested more paranormal claimants than any other organization in the world. However, despite nearly 200 Paranormal Challenge applications and multiple in-person tests this past year, the prize offer remains unclaimed. In early 2023, CFIIG doubled the Paranormal Challenge prize to \$500,000.

In October 2022, the Investigations Group previewed the debut of a new web series, *Skept!Lab: The Bunk Stops Here!* The show, produced by CFIIG at the Center for Inquiry West in Los Angeles (thanks to a grant by the DEW Foundation), will debunk many of the types of known-to-be-bogus claims that CFIIG has investigated for decades.

*Skept!Lab* is set to premiere in early 2023.

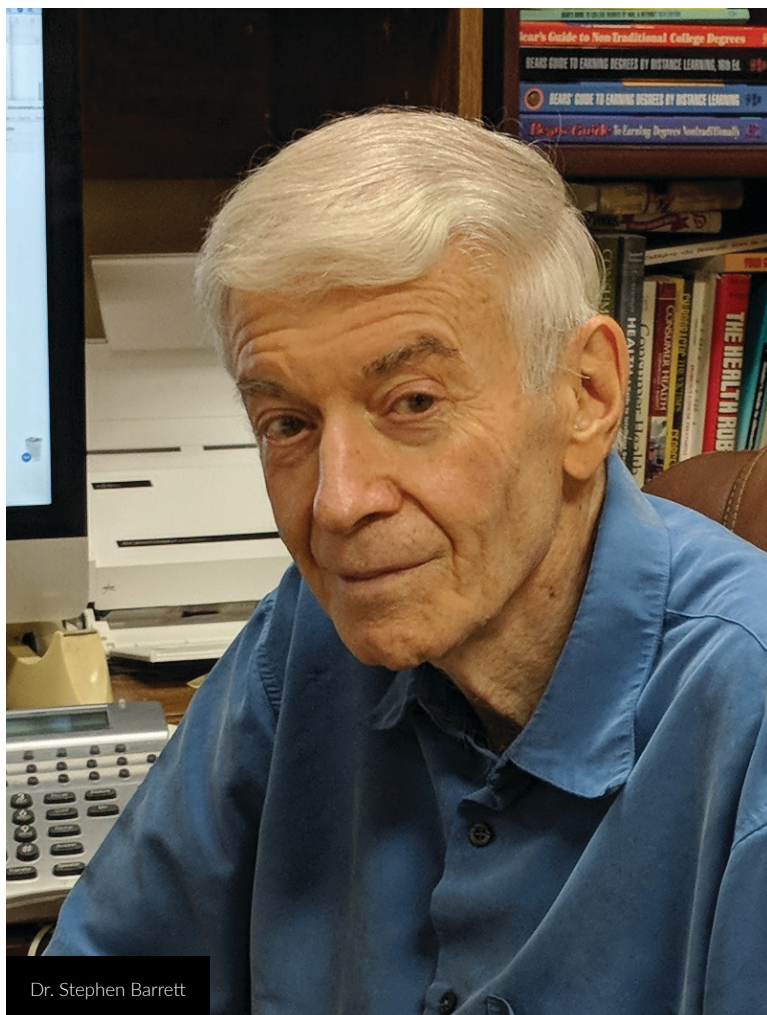


# Target (Mal)Practice— CFI’s Quackwatch

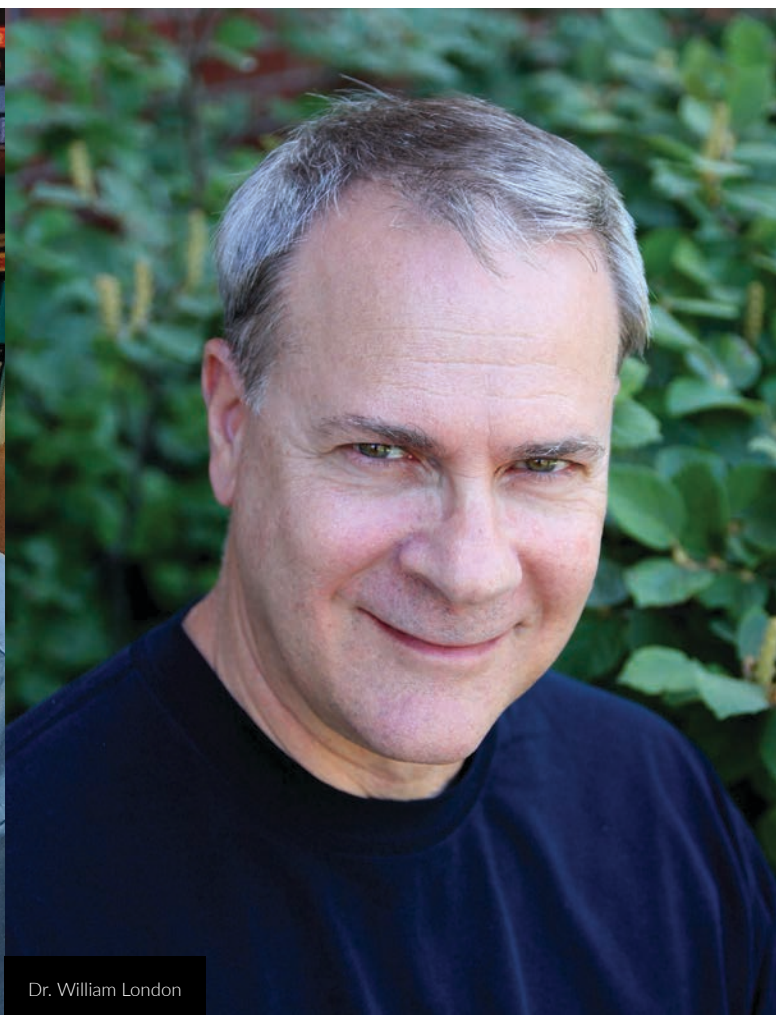
While falling for psychic scams or buying into nonsense conspiracies can be a danger to one’s mental and financial well-being, the proliferation of medical misinformation and pseudoscience can quite literally be deadly.

**Quackwatch**, the groundbreaking consumer resource for identifying health-related pseudoscience and fake medicine, became a part of the Center for Inquiry in 2020. Founded by **Dr. Stephen Barrett**, Quackwatch offers hard-to-find information on health frauds, myths, fads, fallacies, and misconduct. There are sites dedicated to special areas of interest, including autism, chiropractic, dentistry, multilevel marketing, and more.

The *Consumer Health Digest* is a free weekly email newsletter edited by **Dr. William London**. It summarizes scientific reports, legislative activities, news items, and new research that’s crucial for consumers to make smart, scientifically sound health care decisions.



Dr. Stephen Barrett



Dr. William London

# Point of Inquiry: Downloadable Deep Dives

# POINT OF INQUIRY

CFI's longrunning *Point of Inquiry* podcast features some of the brightest minds of our time engaging in deep conversations on the big questions in science, religion, politics, and culture. Each episode features an in-depth conversation available on-demand on all the major podcast apps and platforms.



Journalist **Kelly Weill** with host **Jim Underdown** on *Flat-Earthers and Why People Will Believe Anything*



**Timothy Caulfield** and guest host **Paul Fidalgo** on *The Infodemic and Spread of Misinformation*



Acclaimed author **Steven Pinker** in a discussion of *Rationality and Humanist Values* with our friends at CFI Canada



Author **Alice Greczyn** on *Deconversion and Her Escape from Extremist Christianity*



Purdue University chemist **Graham Cooks** describing his team's *New Discovery in the Chemistry of Life*



Journalist **Rina Raphael** in conversation with Paul Fidalgo on *Broken Promises and False Prophets: The Business of Wellness*



Jim Underdown interviews **Steve Muscarella** and an anonymous production insider for *A Look Behind Your Favorite Television—How Skepticism Plays a Vital Role*

# Freethought—Not Afraid to Be Blasphemous

“*Blasphemy is a victimless crime.*”

— **Richard Dawkins**,  
British Evolutionary Biologist and Author

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Freethought is taking hold throughout the United States and across the globe. Research indicates nearly 30 percent of U.S. adults are religiously unaffiliated, with the percentage of self-identified Christians falling 12 percent in the past decade. But all of this is happening as the religious Right’s decades-long effort to capture the American judiciary is fully taking hold, advocates of freethought are viciously attacked in public settings, and authoritarian fundamentalists around the world brutally cling to power.

Theocracy will not go quietly. Those who rely on religious doctrine to justify their power and influence are hard at work to expand their influence ever further.

The Center for Inquiry continues to stand against creeping theocracy around the world. We are dedicated to the promotion of secular humanist values, replacing religious dogma with reason and logic, and defending the rights—and lives—of atheists and freethinkers from those who threaten or persecute them.



# FREE INQUIRY

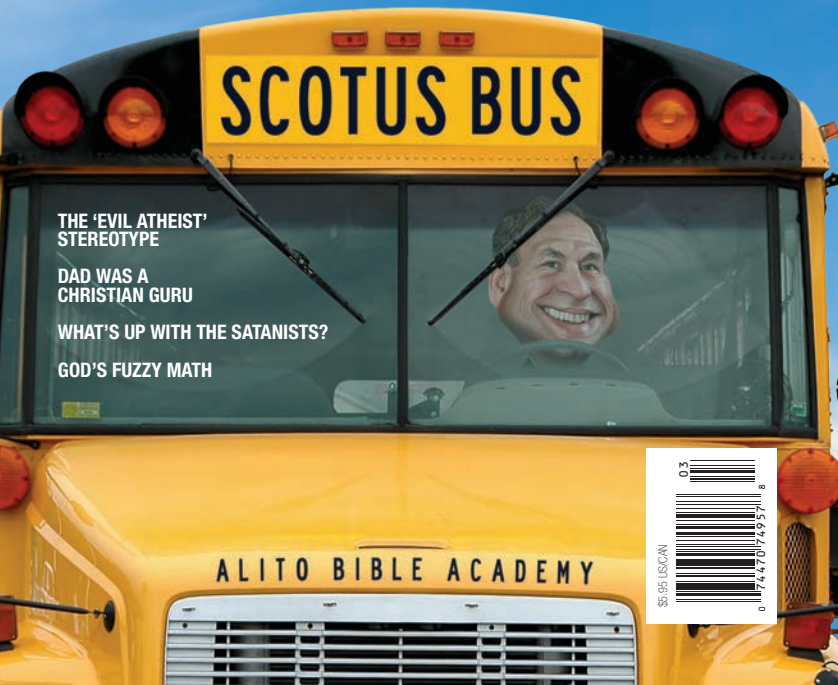
CELEBRATING REASON AND HUMANITY

February/March 2023 Vol. 43 No. 2

The Journal of Secular Humanist Ideas

## ATHEISTS UNDER THE BUS

THE SUPREME COURT HAS MADE THE NONRELIGIOUS SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS



Paul Fidalgo

## A New Era of Free Inquiry

**Tom Flynn**, the longtime editor of *Free Inquiry* and former executive director of the Council for Secular Humanism, died suddenly on August 23, 2021. *Free Inquiry*'s former managing editor, **Andrea Szalanski**, stepped in as interim editor until a permanent editor could be found.

Fortunately, we did not have to look far.

**Paul Fidalgo**, who served as the Center for Inquiry's communications director for over a decade, was named *Free Inquiry* editor and the new executive director of the Council for Secular Humanism in 2022. His first official issue at the magazine's helm was the October/November 2022 edition, which featured an editorial titled "Now What? Storytelling and *Free Inquiry*'s Next Chapter":

The problem with having a planet full of humans is that, well, we're all so damn human. We can be influenced, but we cannot be programmed like robots. ... We have basic needs we must satisfy for survival, but our needs for fulfillment, belonging, and purpose are just as real. We may be meat-based machines, but we are machines that thirst for meaning.

*That's where we come in. Free Inquiry is not merely "an atheist magazine." It is driven by something bigger, something deeper: the values and principles of secular humanism.*

**Skepticism is about how to think. Secular humanism is about how to live.**

Under Fidalgo's stewardship, *Free Inquiry* and its contributors both old and new will continue to explore fundamental questions about the way we live while celebrating the value inherent in the mind and conscience of the human individual.



# 10,500

*Free Inquiry* copies in circulation  
(print, digital, newsstand)

# Secular Rescue: Aiding Freethinkers in Peril

CFI's Secular Rescue program provides emergency assistance to atheist writers, bloggers, publishers, and activists in high-risk countries who are under threat due to their beliefs or public statements regarding religion.

Since 2015, Secular Rescue has helped hundreds of individuals and families from places such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, and Sri Lanka, providing financial and logistical support. Aid requests are thoroughly vetted for validity, and CFI works directly with the applicant and other aid agencies to help individuals reach safety.

While 2021 saw a humanitarian crisis peak as the Taliban reclaimed power in Afghanistan, the past year has seen a flurry of countries tighten existing morality codes and blasphemy laws, putting the rights, freedoms, and indeed the very lives of more nonbelievers in danger.

The ability to find safe solutions for so many of the threatened nonbelievers who sought our help in 2022 is a testament to the hard work of our Secular Rescue caseworkers. There is no quit here, not when lives are at stake.



190

individuals helped by  
Secular Rescue in 2022



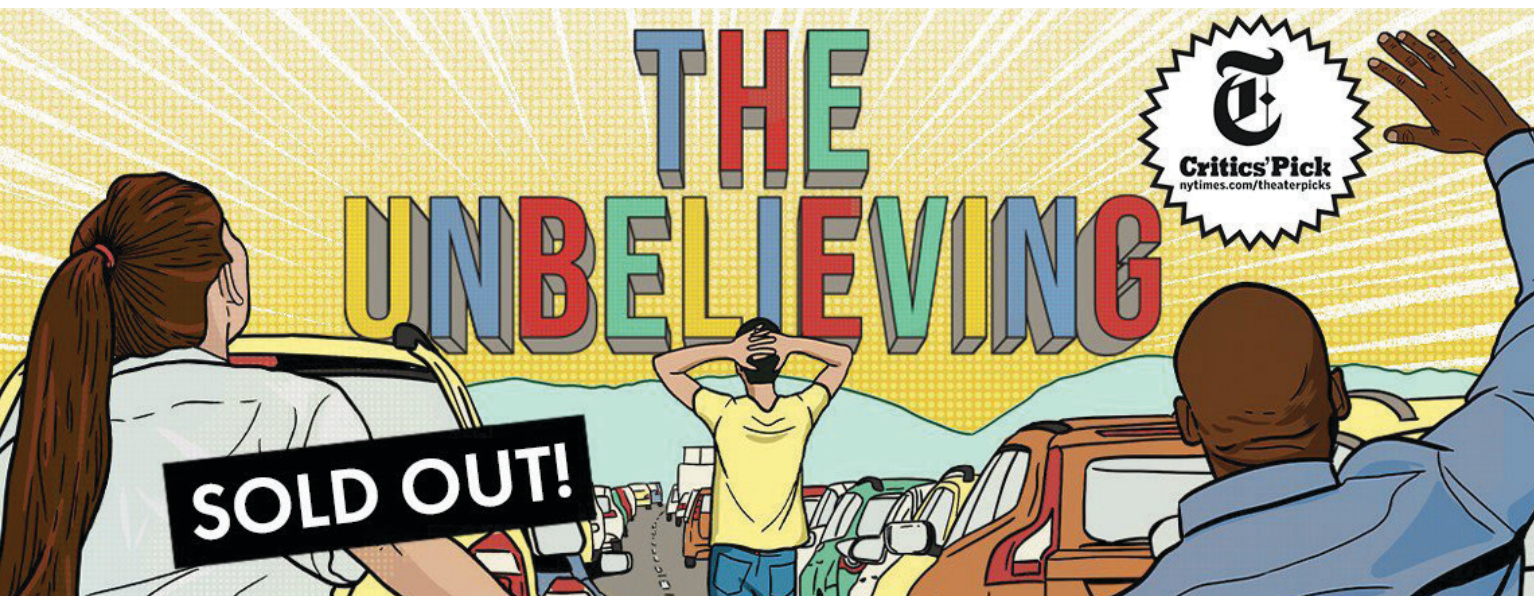
## Defending the Defenseless

The following is an excerpt from the first-person account of **Z.Sh**, an Iranian atheist asylum-seeker in exile. He first reached out to Secular Rescue in April 2020 because “given my insights and writings, my cultural and political activities, the presence of extremist religious trends in Turkey, and the presence of mercenaries and terrorists of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkey, several threats [have been leveled] against me and my family.”

A longer version of his story appears in CFI's quarterly *Freethought in Action* newsletter.

Continuing to live in Iran was hell for someone like me, a person who wanted to live as a humanist and promote it in a country where mafia tyranny is ruled by religious tyrants. ...

... I endured forty-one years in Iran, and six years in Turkey, with slave-like conditions and extreme insecurity. ... If it wasn't for the help of Secular Rescue over the past two years, me and my family would have been defenseless.



## The Unbelieving

*The Unbelieving* is a new play that tells the story of several practicing clergy members from various religions who have lost their faith in God. The documentary-style play was commissioned with funding from the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science and based on real-life interviews and work by Daniel Dennett, Linda LaScola, and The Clergy Project.

The show was produced by the acclaimed New York theater company The Civilians. It debuted in October 2022 to a very positive audience and critical response, becoming a *New York Times* Critics' Pick.



Photo credit: Richard Termine for 59E59 Theatres

## Secular Celebrant Training

While nearly 30 percent of U.S. adults are not affiliated with any religion, most states require marriages to be conducted by religious clergy or a limited number of civil officials.

Center for Inquiry created the Secular Celebrant Program to train and certify secular celebrants to perform non-religious weddings, commitment ceremonies, funerals, memorials, and other "milestones of life."

In 2022, CFI had thirty active Secular Celebrants, while forty-five more attended our Secular Celebrant Training Workshops. CFI's legal program actively challenges the law in states where secular celebrants are denied the same rights as religious leaders to solemnize marriages.





Freethought mural displayed at CFI West

# Honoring Robert Green Ingersoll and Icons of Freethought

The Freethought Trail is a collection of real-world locations and a companion website that spotlight nineteenth-century Western New York's pivotal role in the history of American secularism, abolitionism, and woman's suffrage.

The Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum in Dresden, New York, celebrates Ingersoll's incredible life and legacy. Known as "The Great Agnostic," Ingersoll inspired freethinkers everywhere through courageous speeches and essays on secularism, science, and human rights.

The Museum is overseen by CFI Director of Libraries Timothy Binga, who introduced several physical and digital upgrades to the site in 2022. These include improved parking and access, the addition of notebook computers to allow visitors easy access to the Ingersoll Chronology and the Freethought Trail website, and a beautiful gazebo built in honor of Tom Flynn, the Museum's beloved former director.

In April, CFI West in Los Angeles proudly unveiled a new mural depicting a diverse collection of twenty-three scientists, writers, and thinkers who courageously challenged the orthodoxies of their day. Artists Guy Giguère and Josh "Painted Prophet" McCadney created the mural, which includes iconic figures, including Charles Darwin, James Baldwin, and Thomas Paine, to celebrate humanity's efforts to shed the shackles of religion and superstition.



New gazebo constructed at the Robert Green Ingersoll Museum

# Public Advocacy— Not Afraid to Fight, No Matter the Odds

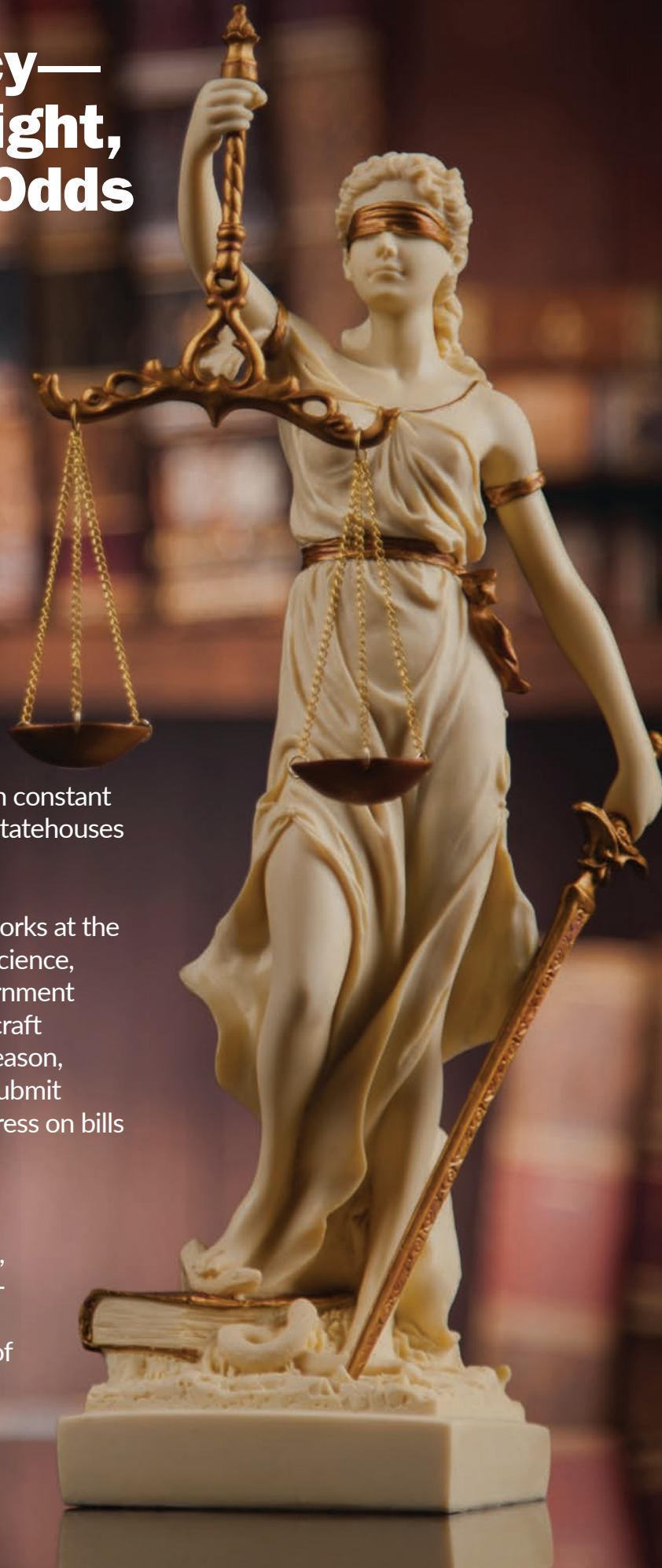
“We’re going to win, but it is going to be a long, slow, hard fight with plenty of setbacks. ...The benefit we have is that we’re right. That goes a long way against hostile courts and heavily funded opponents. But it’s going to be a long, hard battle.”

— **Nicholas Little**, CFI Vice President and General Counsel

CFI’s Public Policy and Legal teams spent 2022 in constant motion, from the courts to the Congress and in statehouses coast-to-coast.

The Center for Inquiry’s Office of Public Policy works at the state and federal levels to defend and promote science, reason, and secular values. CFI Director of Government Affairs **Azhar Majeed** works with lawmakers to craft legislative responses to attacks on science and reason, provide rapid response to key policy areas, and submit written testimony to state legislatures and Congress on bills involving science, religion, and other CFI issues.

CFI’s Legal Department furthers the Center for Inquiry’s mission through investigation, litigation, and filing amicus briefs in cases involving church-state separation, the rights of atheists and nonbelievers to equality under the law, the end of religious privilege, reproductive freedom, consumer protection from pseudoscience, and other issues of importance to CFI and our supporters.



# Promoting Our Values: CFI's Office of Public Policy

## 2022 National Issues

The Office of Public Policy spent the year in Congress working to promote Enlightenment values in the here-and-now while also honoring an oft-overlooked forebear.

- **Thomas Paine Memorial.** CFI lobbied vigorously in support of a bill introduced by Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) to authorize a memorial of Thomas Paine in Washington, D.C. The measure was eventually passed as part of federal spending legislation signed into law on December 29.

- **The Respect for Marriage Act.** With marriage equality once again threatened by religious extremists in a post-*Dobbs* world, CFI called on supporters to help pass the Respect for Marriage Act. The bill, which eventually passed with bipartisan support and became law, formally repealed the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act and codified federal protections for marriage equality, including same-sex marriage and interracial marriage.

- **Other Notable Activity**

- CFI submitted comment to the Department of Health and Human Services' Request for Information (RFI) on the impact of health misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The OPP called on the IRS to revoke the status of the Family Research Council and several similar groups as "associations of churches," when they are in fact conservative political organizations.

- The OPP led a coalition that urged the Senate Committee on the Judiciary to investigate the Supreme Court's various issues involving transparency, recusal, and judicial ethics.

- The OPP also advocated on proposed rule changes for federal agencies that would roll back Trump-era regulations allowing for religious indoctrination and coercion.



## 2022 State-Level Action

The Center for Inquiry was at the forefront of many legislative battles in statehouses nationwide. The Office of Public Policy tracked and responded to proposed legislation that touched on multiple policy areas of interest to CFI, including:

- **School Vouchers and Religious Privilege.** CFI lobbied against the expansion of school voucher programs in Arizona and Oklahoma and pushed back against "Coach Kennedy Laws" to expand prayer in public schools following the Supreme Court's abysmal ruling in *Kennedy v. Bremerton*.

- **Naturopathy Legislation.** In Illinois, CFI offered written testimony opposing a bill to grant naturopathic practitioners the right to perform a wide range of patient services, despite lacking medical qualifications; CFI lobbied against two Wisconsin bills; we were gratified that Governor Evers vetoed the bill to shield naturopaths from consequences of prosecution but disappointed that Evers signed the bill giving naturopaths standing similar to real doctors.

- **Religion and Pseudoscience in Medicine.** In Arizona, CFI helped stop a bill that would require pharmacists to dispense ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19, as well as other dangerous off-label drug use; the OPP stood up for the right of "mature minors" in California to consent to FDA-approved vaccinations even if their parents are opposed.

189

bills tracked by CFI  
(157 state, 32 federal)

20

bills targeted  
by CFI

## 2022 in Review: The Supreme Court

Supreme Court Smashes Wall of Separation, Forces Taxpayer Funding of Religious Schools (June 21)

Chief Justice Roberts, You're *Makin Me Crazy* (June 27)

Center for Inquiry on *Dobbs* Decision: Overturning *Roe* Is the 'Act of a Religious Tribunal' (June 24)

CFI on *Kennedy* Decision: Supreme Court Gives Its Blessing to Coercive Prayer at Public Schools (June 27)

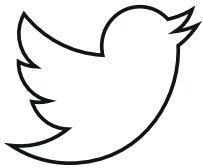
Secular Groups to Chief Justice: Investigate Liberty Counsel's Private Prayer Sessions with Supreme Court Justices (July 8)

The Court Is Strangling the Establishment Clause, and There's No Quick Fix (August 4)

# Opposing Religious Privilege in—and by—the Courts

Conservative religious groups and the politicians who pander to them have spent decades working to reshape the federal courts into *de facto* "religious tribunals" that will favor those claiming religious privilege and tear down the Founders' wall of separation between church and state. In 2022, those efforts resulted in a series of Supreme Court decisions that CFI Vice President and General Counsel **Nicholas Little** described as "nothing short of crushing for the secular movement."

## Social Media Numbers

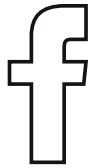


**113,300**

CFI & *Skeptical Inquirer*  
Twitter followers

**105,200**

RDFRS  
Twitter followers

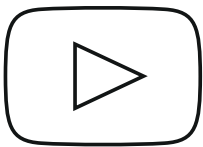


**209,300**

CFI & *Skeptical Inquirer*  
Facebook followers

**1.4 million**

RDFRS  
Facebook followers



**60,500**

CFI YouTube subscribers

**365,000**

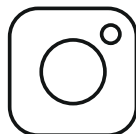
RDFRS YouTube subscribers

**1.5 million**

CFI YouTube channel views

**2.4 million**

RDFRS YouTube channel views



**49,100**

RDFRS Instagram followers

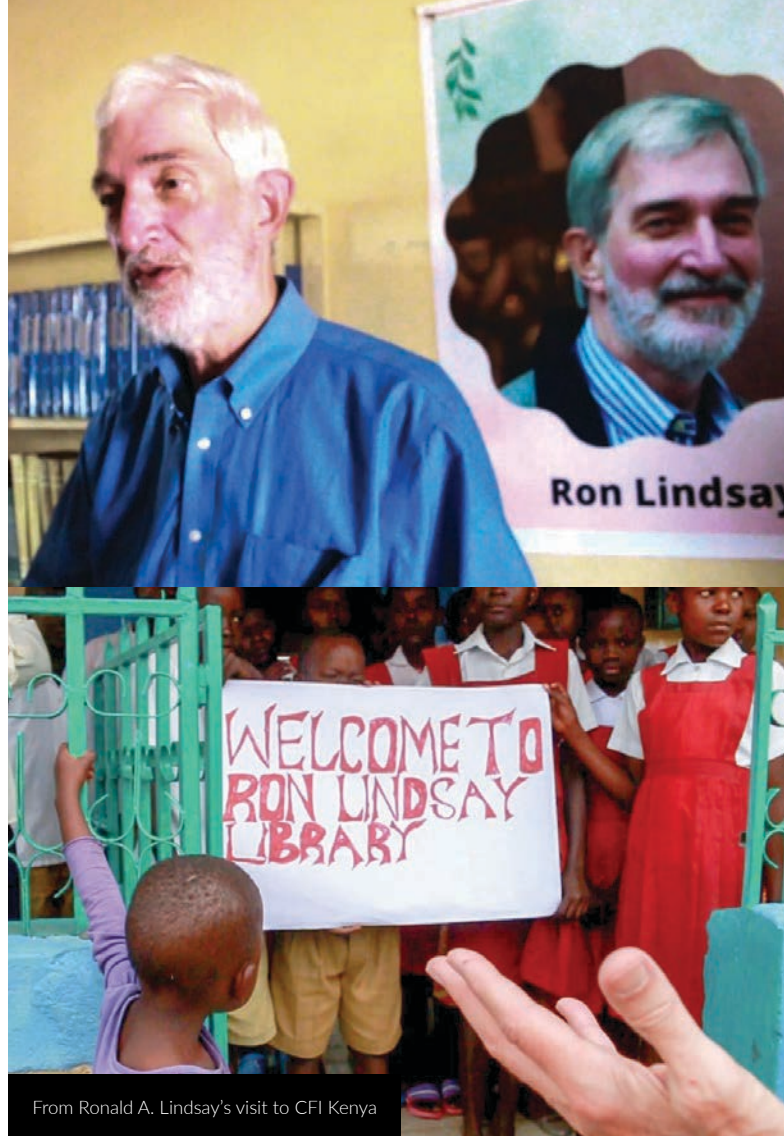
# CFI Transnational: Shining the Light of Reason around the World

A few examples of the work and event outreach of CFI branches and affiliates outside the United States in 2022:

- **The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science** was a proud partner of the **Celebrating Dissent** conference in Cologne, Germany, in August 2022. Speakers and artists from more than thirty countries took part in the event, which brought together ex-Muslims, freethinkers, and intellectuals for a celebration of freethought and dissent.
- **CFI Kenya** exists in a turbulent environment, limited by its size and resources, as well as the conservative cultural mores, precarious politics, and dangerous superstitions endemic to rural East Africa. CFI Kenya Executive Director **George Ongere** works to gain acceptance by focusing on tangibly improving the lives of his neighbors. The Humanist Orphans Center, located in Kisumu County, is a CFI program dedicated to helping provide for the basic needs of vulnerable children with a focus on communicating the precepts of humanism and scientific skepticism. Former CFI President and CEO Ronald A. Lindsay documented his 2022 visit in a *Free Inquiry* feature:

“My visit with CFI Kenya convinced me that secular humanism has a critical role to play in developing democracies as they slowly emerge from a tradition-bound way of life.”

- Alejandro Borgo of **CFI Argentina** took part in the Meeting of Freethinkers II in Pereira, Colombia, this past September. Describing the three-day event for *Pensar*, Borgo wrote it “recharged the batteries of atheists, freethinkers, activists, humanists with first-rate presentations on pseudoscience, atheism, secularism, scientific research, and many other topics.”



From Ronald A. Lindsay's visit to CFI Kenya

## Global Influence: CFI at the United Nations

The Center for Inquiry has held special consultative status under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2005. CFI maintains a presence as a non-governmental organization (NGO) at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

CFI's diplomatic efforts seek to protect and advance universal human rights from a secular, science-based perspective with three interrelated areas of focus: freedom of religion, belief, and expression; women's rights; and LGBTQ equality.

While COVID-related restrictions limited opportunities for in-person diplomatic engagement in 2022, CFI UN Advocate **Andreas Kyriacou** attended UN Human Rights Council sessions both in-person and virtually. Kyriacou also prepared and submitted a statement for the special session in November 2022, which dealt with “the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.”



# Spreading Enlightenment: CFI Education Department



Education is a central focus of the Center for Inquiry's work. That means creating resources and programs for students and educators alike. CFI Director of Education **Bertha Vazquez**, a science educator with more than thirty years of classroom experience, oversees three separate and vital education programs.

# Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES)

The Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES) program—created through the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science—is the nation’s premiere evolution education website for middle school science teachers.

After presenting mostly online workshops for the past couple years, TIES was back in the field in 2022, hosting a total of thirty-four teacher workshops in twenty-one U.S. states. In all, 526 individual teachers participated in TIES workshops last year, with a real-world impact on untold thousands of students nationwide.

In addition to teacher workshops, TIES also collaborated on a variety of public-facing events, including a full-day, in-person event with the Birmingham (AL) Zoo.

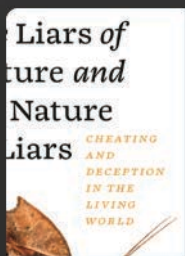
TIES’s webinar series resumed in September 2022, offering five events that featured the authors of recently published science books, including *Queer Ducks* with Eliot Schrefer and *Evolution Talk* with Rick Coste. These webinars were also made available for later viewing on YouTube; in the past twelve months, TIES has posted video from thirty-six live webinars.

Vazquez and her team continue to create free teacher materials and lesson plans—available in English and Spanish—for science educators in elementary and middle grades. TIES also created a new online resource for teachers interested in planning their own Darwin Day events and activities.



Bertha Vazquez at one of many TIES teacher workshops

## Webinars



**Upcoming:** The Liars of Nature and the Nature of Liars: Cheating and Deception in the Living World with author Lixing Sun

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 - 7:00pm

Nature is rife with cheating. Possums play possum, feigning death to cheat predators. Crows cry wolf to scare off rivals. Amphibians and reptiles are inveterate impostors. Even genes and cells cheat. The Liars of Nature and the Nature of Liars explores the evolution of cheating in the natural world, revealing how dishonesty has given rise ...

[RSVP on Zoom Now!](#)



# 526

Total number of teachers who attended a TIES workshop in 2022



# ScienceSaves

CFI's ScienceSaves program, created in partnership with freethought advocate and philanthropist Todd Stiefel in 2021, is designed to engage students, parents, and educators to highlight the power of science and the many positive ways it impacts all our lives.

- ScienceSaves's education team presented twenty-five workshops in fifteen U.S. states in its inaugural year. The team also developed several new lesson plans for teachers over the past year, bringing the total number available to twenty-six (with more on the way)!
- ScienceSaves created a petition campaign urging states to declare March 26 National Science Appreciation Day. That date marks the anniversary of Jonas Salk's announcement of the polio vaccine. In all, fourteen states and the District of Columbia issued proclamations in 2022.
- ScienceSaves hosted a video scholarship contest for college-bound high school seniors. Students were asked to create a short video describing a real-life experience that demonstrates how science saved them or someone they know. The \$10,000 first place prize went to Michael Wilson of Arizona.
- ScienceSaves produced a fun animated video that explains the contradictions and nonsensical ideas behind homeopathy. "What Is Homeopathy?" stars actress, comedian, and CFI Board Member **Julia Sweeney**.



# Young Skeptics

**Young Skeptics** was rejuvenated in 2022 with a new website featuring original lesson plans and links to resources intended to foster greater understanding of the world through inquiry-based learning. Young Skeptics helps students counteract the mass of misinformation that surrounds them every day.

Our Young Skeptics team created nature-based lessons about birds specific to Florida at two Miami-area summer camps. Campers were taught to spot doctored bird images online and how to be on the lookout for misinformation.

In October, Janas Byrd developed and presented a new lesson on haunted houses; CFI Chief Investigator Kenny Biddle also shared his ghost hunting expertise with our Young Skeptics students in a fun-filled Zoom session.



Bertha Vazquez and a Young Skeptic at the bird spotting event



12

Project translators



20,000

Books downloaded



86

Countries downloading  
our books

## The Translations Project

There are many parts of the world in which it is all too difficult to obtain books that explain and celebrate science and nonbelief written in the local language—particularly within more restrictive Islamic regimes.

**The Translations Project**, an initiative of the Richard Dawkins Foundation, produces professionally translated versions of important books on science and evolution into multiple languages—including Arabic, Urdu, Indonesian, and Farsi—that can be downloaded free of charge through the project's website: [TranslationsProject.org](https://TranslationsProject.org).

# The Morning Heresy

CFI's *The Morning Heresy* is a long-running email newsletter and blog that rounds up the latest news, opinion, and analysis of interest to the skeptic and secular movement. Created by **Paul Fidalgo**, *The Morning Heresy* is now published three times a week, authored by CFI Communications Manager **Jeff Dellinger** and *Skeptical Inquirer* contributor **JD Sword**.



3,800

*Morning Heresy*  
email subscribers



## CFI Branches: Building Enlightened Local Communities

The Center for Inquiry's branches continue to find new and interesting ways to connect local members with the impactful work CFI is doing nationally, whether by hosting lectures or inspiring grassroots engagement with secular and skeptical activism through community meetups.

Our branches have resumed a full schedule of activities throughout 2022, and many groups have made plans to introduce new in-person and online programs in 2023.

CFI Outreach Coordinator **Eric Shaver** has worked with the leadership of the individual branches to update and optimize the creation of email newsletters and event updates, improving communication and boosting engagement in our local communities. CFI added nearly twenty new affiliate groups to its Group Locator page in 2022. Shaver is also developing new presentations and discussion guides for local chapters tied to CFI publications.

Learn more and find a CFI branch or group near you by visiting our website at: [centerforinquiry.org/groups](https://centerforinquiry.org/groups).

18

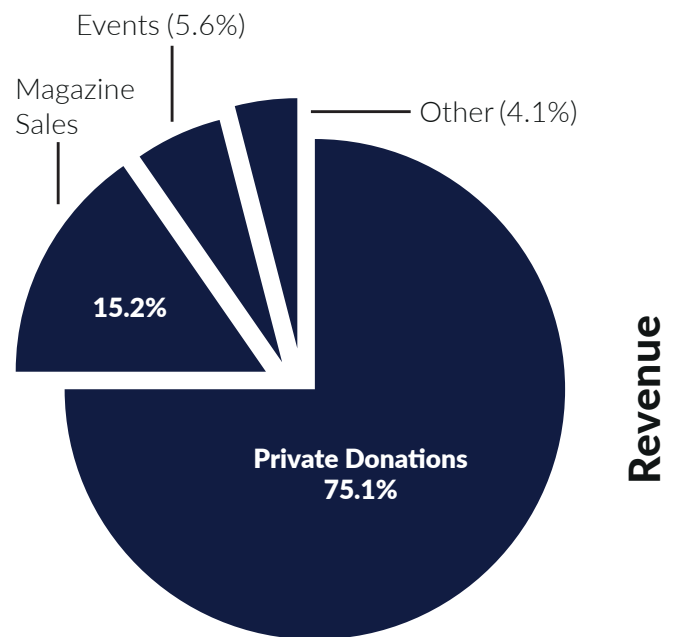
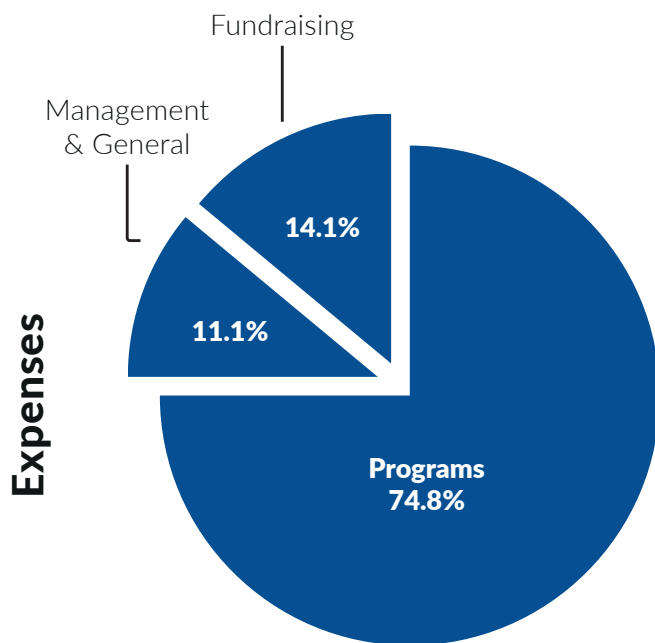
Active global  
CFI branches

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**Vinod Bhardwaj:** Inventor, Entrepreneur  
**David Cowan:** Investor, Venture Capitalist  
**Richard Dawkins:** Author, Evolutionary Biologist, Lecturer  
**Brian Engler:** Operations Research Analyst, Nonprofit Executive  
**Barry Kosmin:** Educator  
**Bill Maxwell:** Columnist, University Professor, Screenwriter  
**Julia Sweeney:** Comedian, Actress  
**Eddie Tabash (Chair, Board of Directors):** Attorney, Activist  
**Dr. J. Anderson Thomson:** Author, Psychiatrist  
**Leonard Tramiel:** Scientist, Educator

**Honorary Members:** Rebecca Goldstein, Susan Jacoby

## Where Your Money Goes



When you give to the Center for Inquiry and its programs, you want your donation to be stewarded with care and attention to the mission. That's why we report our revenue and expense ratios here. In addition, our Form 990 is available on our website.

In 2022, we generated \$4,307,972 in revenue. Seventy-five percent came from private donations, and the remaining came from magazine sales, events, and other sources of income.

We are keenly aware of the responsibility we have to our donors when it comes to expenditures. This commitment is reflected in our expense breakdown.

*These figures do not include bequests or support for the CFI Development Fund. Please note that these are not final, audited figures. We save costs by having our audit done later in the year. If you would like to see final audited figures, please contact the Development Department at [development@centerforinquiry.org](mailto:development@centerforinquiry.org) in August.*

# Our Team

---

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**Dr. Wafa Bahri:** Director, The Translations Project

**John Barrett:** Branch Manager, CFI Western NY

**Stephen Barrett, MD:** Consultant, Quackwatch

**Jennifer Beahan:** Deputy Director,  
CFI Secular Celebrant Program

**Kenny Biddle:** Chief Investigator,  
Committee for Skeptical Inquiry

**Timothy Binga:** Director of CFI Libraries,  
Ingersoll Museum, and Freethought Trail

**Robyn Blumner:** President and CEO,  
Center for Inquiry; Executive Director,  
Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science

**Alejandro Borgo:** Director, CFI Argentina & *Pensar* Editor

**Roderick Bradford:** Videographer, Freethought Trail

**Steve Bratteng:** Director, CFI Austin

**Melissa Braun:** Administrative Assistant

**Kenneth Coogan:** Assistant Director,  
Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science

**Aubrey Cook:** Web Content Coordinator

**Matthew Cravatta:** Manager, Print and Direct Mail  
Operations & Secular Rescue Coordinator

**Jeff Dellinger:** Communications Manager

**Andrzej Dominiczak:** Director, CFI Poland

**Frances Emerson:** Docent,  
Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum

**Paul Fidalgo:** Editor, *Free Inquiry*;  
Executive Director, Council for Secular Humanism

**Kendrick Frazier:** Editor, *Skeptical Inquirer* Magazine  
until 11/7/22

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**Aaron Green:** Staff Counsel

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**Julia Hassan:** Multi-Channel Marketing Associate

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**Kari VanderLaan:** Development Manager

**Bertha Vazquez:** Director of Education

**Vance Vigrass:** Building & Mailroom Manager

**Stuart Vyse:** Interim Editor, *Skeptical Inquirer*

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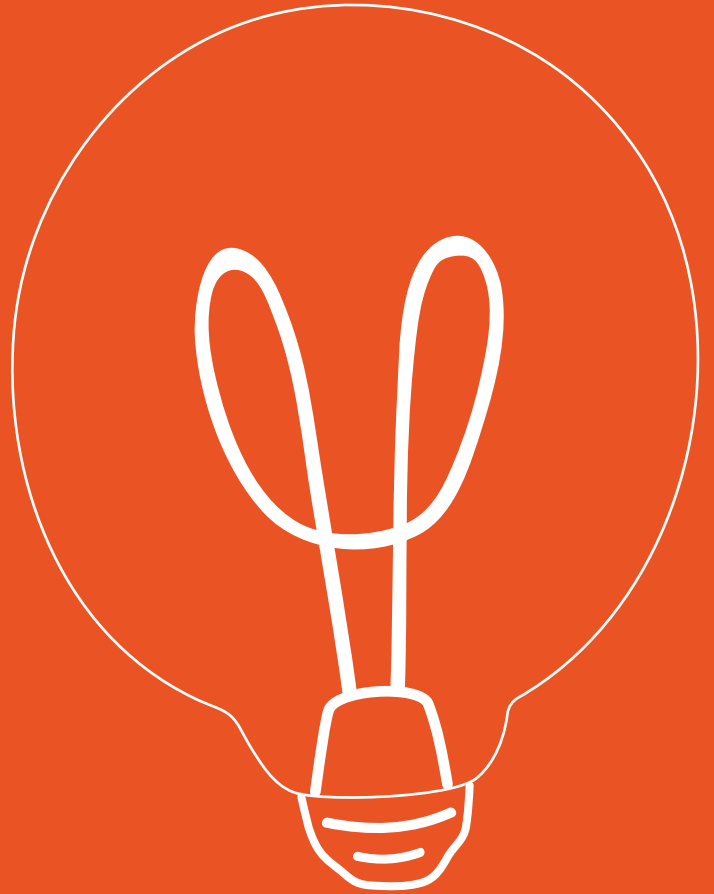
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 Anonymous (15)



Darkness comes in many forms: theocracy, misinformation, pseudoscience, science-denial, anti-intellectualism. The Center for Inquiry will continue to shine the light of reason, science, truth, and humanism and to push back against the darkness around us. We hope you'll join us and support the power of Enlightenment and freethinking all around the world.



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