



cfi | **Progress Report**
2024

Message from the **President** & **CEO**



Welcome to an oasis of sanity. That is how I would describe the Center for Inquiry.

No matter what irrational dogma is being served up as deliverance in the wider world.

No matter what anti-science nonsense is being sold as today's truth.

No matter what challenges to secular values are being wrought by those in charge.

CFI is holding fast. We are sticking to our mission of promoting a secular society grounded in reason and science in which freethought, critical thinking, and the scientific method are our guidestars.

In other words, an oasis of sanity.

As you read this Progress Report for 2024, you may wonder (and marvel!) at the breadth of our work. It is a compendium of accomplishment across a wide range of endeavors. You might wonder, however, what our Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES)—a program that trains teachers across the country to teach evolution and answer its critics—has to do with fighting medical quackery and our lawsuit against Boiron, the world's largest producer of homeopathic products.

Well, it is all part of our campaign to combat pseudoscience. We fight against homeopathy proponents because homeopathy is worthless beyond a placebo and a giant medical fraud, and we support teaching evolution because it combats the unscientific

idea that the diversity of life we see on our planet was designed by a supernatural creator, a.k.a. God. Religion, after all, is just another form of pseudoscience, making claims about the natural world that aren't borne out by actual evidence.

CFI pushes back against the purveyors of nonsense in all ways. But beyond what CFI is doing in the courts, in the nation's Capitol and state houses—and even around the world—we are also keeping the history of the freethought and skeptical movements alive. CFI owns and operates the Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum in Dresden, New York, and maintains the Freethought Trail in the Finger Lakes region that connects the American secular movement to the fight for abolition, woman's suffrage, church-state separation, and freedom of conscience.

From Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine, to Robert Green Ingersoll and Matilda Joselyn Gage, to Carl Sagan and Paul Kurtz, to Richard Dawkins and Neil deGrasse Tyson, **CFI is a gateway to these great thinkers and the Enlightenment ideals they represent. We are their ground troops and we are yours.**

That is why we are and will remain an oasis of sanity.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Blumner', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robyn Blumner

Staying True to Our Mission in Challenging Times

Since its founding, the Center for Inquiry (CFI) has been steadfast in its commitment to fostering a society based on reason, science, and secular values.

Last year, the headwinds shifted against us on all three fronts. Ideological concerns from across the political spectrum worked to undermine support for evidence-based scientific truths; politicians at every level of government launched new attacks on the separation of church and state; the purveyors of anti-vaccine misinformation and empty health and wellness woo saw their avatar, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., nominated (and later confirmed) to run America's public health programs.

The Center for Inquiry has spent decades leading the pushback against these forces, and 2024 was no exception.

- We provide a crucial forum for discussion, debate, and scientific analysis of controversial topics through publications such as *Skeptical Inquirer* and *Free Inquiry*, as well as live events such as CSIcon and online programs such as *Skeptical Inquirer Presents* and *Point of Inquiry*.
- CFI's education programs—Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES), ScienceSaves, and Generation Skeptics—promote science literacy and critical thinking, while the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science is making books on evolution and atheism available for free in languages dominant in the Muslim world.
- *Skeptical Inquirer* and CFI's Quackwatch remain at the vanguard of exposing anti-scientific nonsense in health and wellness, while CFI Legal and our Office of Consumer Protection from Pseudoscience continue to press our case against the massive consumer fraud that is homeopathy.
- CFI's Office of Public Policy raises awareness of the Christian nationalist agenda laid out in Project 2025 and lobbies aggressively against dozens of state and federal bills designed to weaken church-state separation, inject religion into public schools, and direct public tax dollars to religious schools and organizations.

No matter what challenges await in the weeks and months to come—and we already know there will be many—rest assured that we stand ready to meet them. CFI remains laser-focused on its mission and determined to stand up for reason, science, and secular values in every way we can.



Yearly Statistics



4.3 Million

CFI websites 2024 total pageviews /
334,700 average monthly pageviews



72,325

CFI email subscribers /
19,018 RDFRS subscribers



***Free Inquiry:* Promoting Reason by Presenting a Diversity of Views**

In September, **Ronald A. Lindsay** returned to CFI as the new editor of *Free Inquiry*, the long-running journal of secular humanist thought.

Lindsay is the former president and CEO of the Center for Inquiry and recently served as its interim general counsel. He is also a senior research fellow for *Free Inquiry* and has written dozens of pieces for the magazine over the course of several decades.



To me, the core commitment of secular humanism is to use reason, evidence, freedom of inquiry, and, where applicable, the scientific method to determine the truth, whether it is ethical truth or the nature of reality. We have no dogmas and no authority figures. Accordingly, as editor, I will not only explore topics of interest to the humanist/freethought community but will seek to have cogent arguments presented that represent the diversity of views on these topics."

—Ronald A. Lindsay, Editor of *Free Inquiry*

Leading the Charge against Anti-Science Crusader Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

In November, Donald Trump announced he'd chosen Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to lead the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The Center for Inquiry actively opposed Kennedy's nomination from the outset, calling it "the worst possible choice the incoming president could make for the vital job of protecting public health." CFI's Quackwatch created a special "RFK Jr. Watch" resource page to raise public awareness about Kennedy's long history of anti-vaccine fearmongering and promoting misinformation, while CFI's Office of Public Policy urged supporters to contact their Senators directly to oppose his confirmation.

While Kennedy was ultimately confirmed by the Senate, CFI remains committed to advocating aggressively for science-based public health policy. In a statement released following Kennedy's confirmation, CFI Director of Government Affairs Azhar Majeed pledged:

"CFI's Office of Public Policy will work to minimize the damage that comes out of his new post. In particular, we will continue to lobby aggressively to make sure that the FDA, CDC, and NIH serve their missions to protect American public health."



“ A proper, secular education delivered by a public school emphasizes science, math, grammar, literature, civics, and the like. ... It does not promote religious texts—whether those be the Bible, the Quran, the Torah, or anything else.”

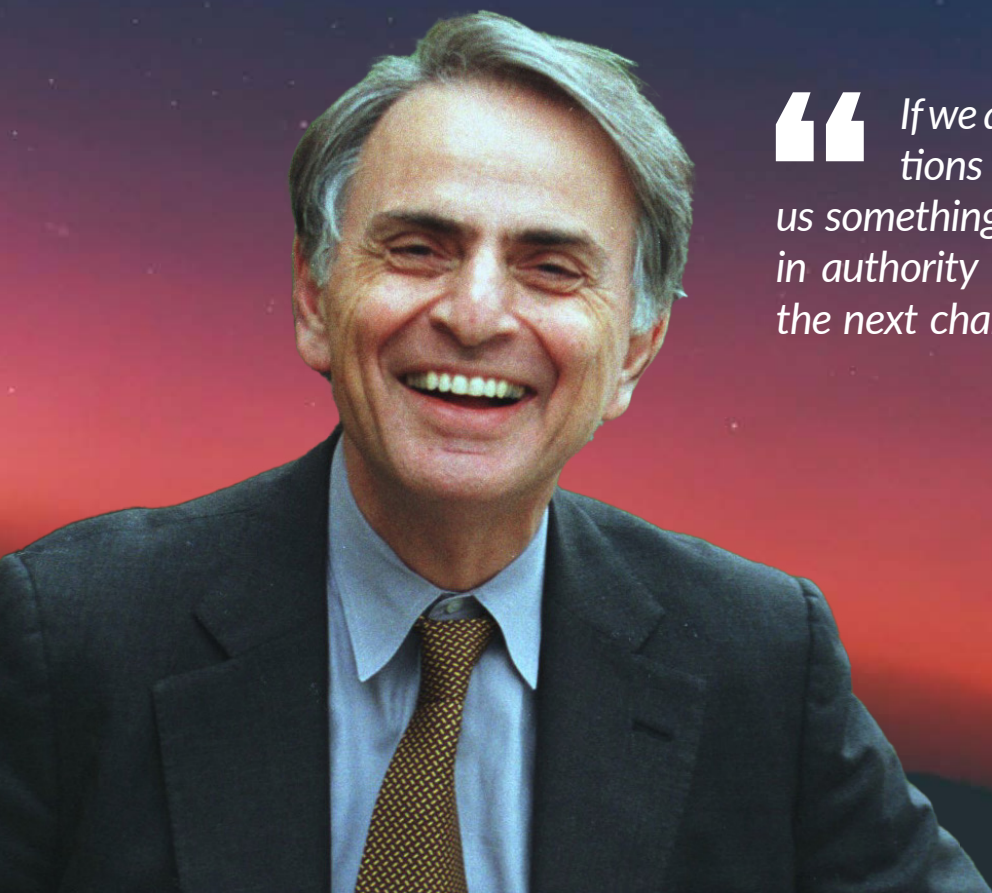
—Azhar Majeed, Director of Government Affairs

Fighting to Protect Secular Public Education

CFI's education programs, including the award-winning **Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science** (TIES), provide important free resources for educators across the country tasked with teaching evolution—and effectively answering its critics. In addition to the crucial work of boosting science literacy in the classroom, CFI's **Office of Public Policy** (OPP) fights to keep various forms of theology and pseudoscience out.

One of the consistent legislative motifs throughout last year was a push by Christian nationalists and aspiring theocrats to inject religion—and often literal scripture—into public education. CFI's Office of Public Policy spent a great deal of time working to defend the separation of church and state in classrooms across the country.

OPP opposed bills and mandates to incorporate Bible-based lessons, “intelligent design” pseudoscience, religious chaplains, and the Ten Commandments into K–12 public schools across a number of states.



Skepticism

“ If we are not able to ask skeptical questions ... to interrogate those who tell us something is true, to be skeptical of those in authority ... then we are up for grabs for the next charlatan, political or religious, who comes ambling along.”

—Carl Sagan

CSIcon 2024: “Science Nerd Heaven”

All photos by Karl Withakay

Barry Karr, the executive director of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI) and *Skeptical Inquirer*, describes CSIcon as a place where the brightest stars of science and skepticism come to shine, and 2024’s conference delivered in spades.

CSIcon 2024 took place October 24–27 at the Horseshoe Las Vegas and was, as Center for Inquiry President and CEO Robyn Blumner described it, “The very definition of science nerd heaven.”

The event brought together scientists, skeptics, and critical thinkers from across the world to hear from luminaries such as Brian Cox, Neil deGrasse Tyson, the hosts of *The Skeptics’ Guide to the Universe* podcast, climate scientist Michael Mann, Timothy Caulfield, Chris French, Forrest Valkai, and recently elected CSI Fellows Jerry Coyne, Nick Tiller, and Melanie Trecek-King.



Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson (left) presenting physicist Brian Cox (right) with the Richard Dawkins Award

Richard Dawkins Award Presented to Brian Cox

The Center for Inquiry presents the Richard Dawkins Award annually to an outstanding individual who has significantly furthered the cause of reason and science. Coming from the worlds of science, scholarship, education, or entertainment, these individuals are known for publicly proclaiming the values of secularism and rationalism, upholding scientific truth wherever it may lead. This year’s recipient was world-famous astrophysicist Brian Cox.

Introducing Cox via video, Richard Dawkins said:

“He’s a brilliantly lucid and engaging expositor of cosmology, of physics, and the history of the subject ... He doesn’t confine himself to physics but casts a perceptive cosmologist’s eye on my own subject of biology. ... We horsemen of unbelief are often accused of promoting a bleak, comfortless view of what some see as the cold emptiness of a godless life. Brian Cox’s habitually smiling humanism belies it. His rationalism is a joyful, happy rationalism. He even laughs out loud at the very bleakness that lesser men find terrifying.”



Skeptical Inquirer: Investigate Everything

Last year was Editor Stephen Hupp's first full year at the helm of the iconic *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, CFI's flagship magazine of science and reason. During CSIcon 2024, Hupp spoke about his vision for the magazine and the important distinction he sees between "skeptics" and "skeptical inquirers." The magazine—and CSI as an organization—exists to question extraordinary claims, not simply dismiss them out of hand. That element of inquiry is just as central to CSI's mission as the concept of skepticism.

To help make the magazine's insights easily available to more people, CFI Outreach Coordinator Eric Shaver launched a pilot program in 2024 to convert select *Skeptical Inquirer* and *Free Inquiry* articles into downloadable audio files.



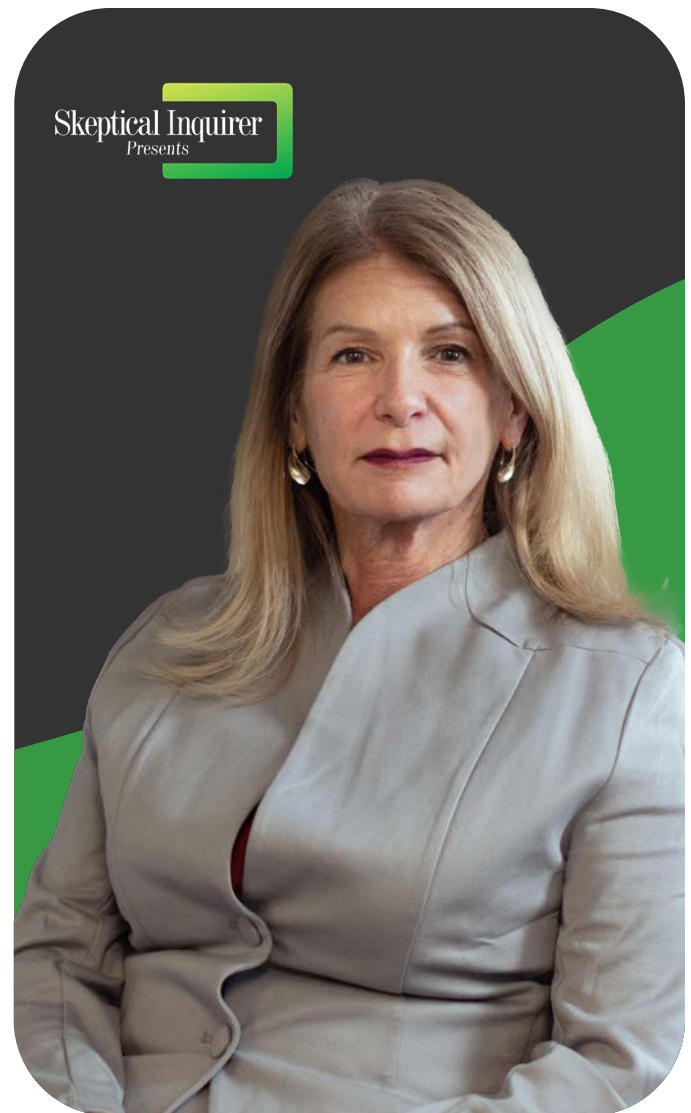
22,718

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

Skeptical Inquirer Presents

Skeptical Inquirer Presents is a series of live stream events featuring interviews and presentations from authors, doctors, journalists, and academics covering a wide range of topics. These free live stream events are also recorded and made available for on-demand viewing on both the *Skeptical Inquirer* website and the CFI YouTube channel.

Over the course of thirteen episodes in 2024, *Skeptical Inquirer Presents* addressed weighty cultural and philosophical topics, including a dialogue about the existence of free will with best-selling author Robert Sapolsky, rebuilding the public's respect for science with Laura Lindenfeld of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, the rise of Christian nationalism with author Bradley Onishi, and teaching evolution with Glenn Branch of the National Center for Science Education.



Laura Lindenfeld of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science

CSI's Chief Investigator Kenny Biddle

People all over the world reach out to CFI every year with stories of paranormal encounters or mysterious objects appearing in photos and videos. All of this keeps **Kenny Biddle** a very busy man.

As CSI's chief investigator, Biddle provides accessible scientific explanations for the photos, videos, and "mysterious sounds" he investigates, helping demonstrate how to apply critical thinking to understand them. Through his *Skeptical Inquirer* columns and videos, weekly live streams, and in-person workshops and lectures, Biddle provides a valuable skeptical counter to the opportunists and hucksters looking to profit off people's belief in the paranormal.

CFI Investigations Group

For more than twenty years, the **CFI Investigations Group** (CFIIG) has been putting extraordinary claims to the test. The organization hosts the \$500,000 Paranormal Challenge, the largest active prize offered for proof of paranormal ability under scientific test conditions.

CFIIG tests more claims of paranormal ability from self-purported healers, psychics, and otherwise gifted individuals than any other organization in the world. In 2024, CFIIG had 148 applications for the Paranormal Challenge and tested eight paranormal claimants in-person.

SkeptiLab: The Bunk Stops Here! is a web series hosted by CFI West Executive Director **James Underdown**. The full series is available to watch at skeptilab.tv and on the Center for Inquiry YouTube channel.

Released in 2024:

EPISODE 6: "Ghosts and the Afterlife" with Annabelle Gurwitch

EPISODE 7: "Fortune Tellers" with Phil LaMarr

SkeptiLab

The BUNK STOPS here!



Quackwatch: Shining a Light on Science Deniers & Wellness Scammers

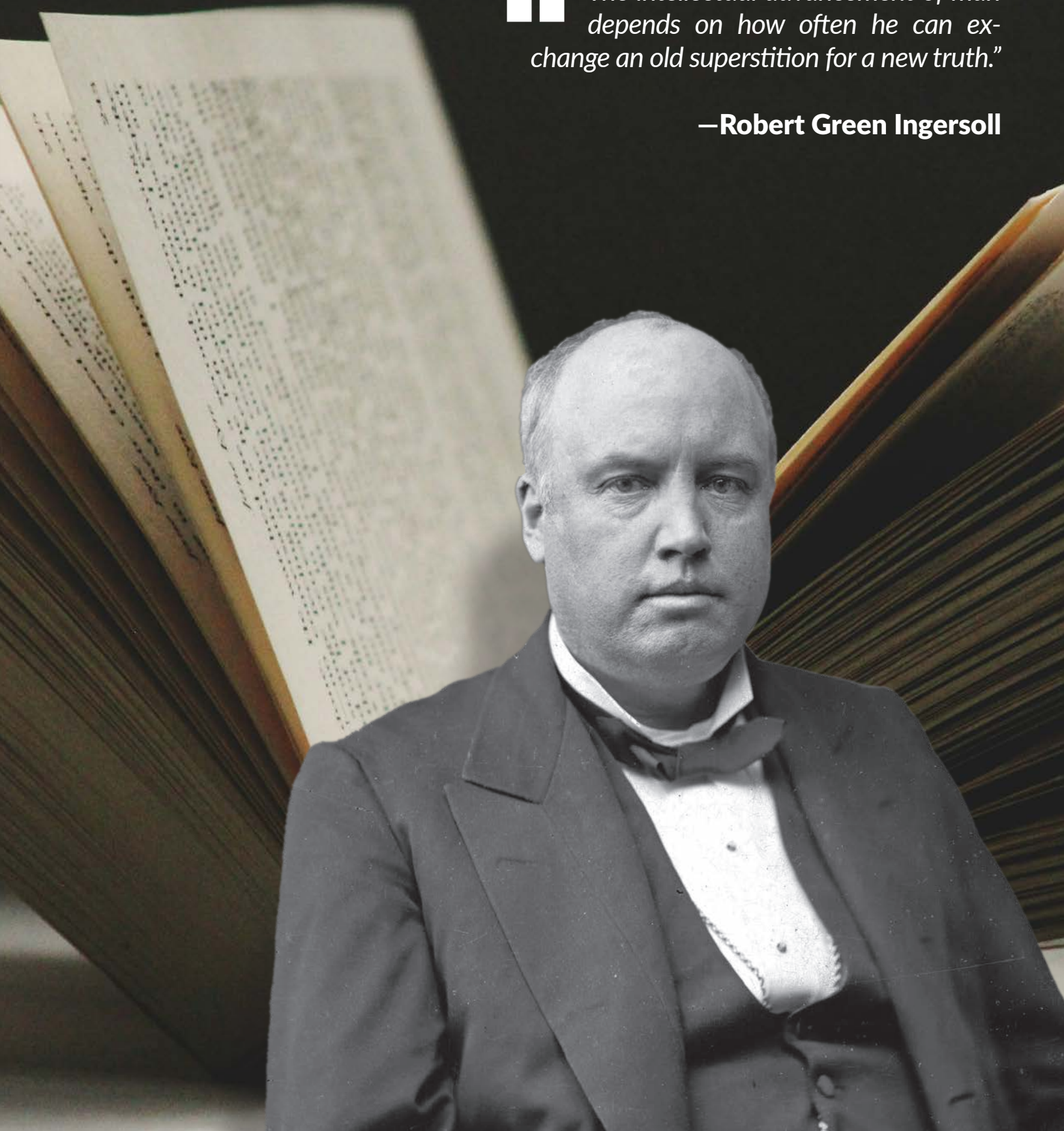
CFI's Quackwatch aims to protect consumers from junk science and predatory medical practices. Quackwatch, founded by Stephen Barrett, MD, identifies instances of health-related pseudoscience and medical misinformation, focusing on health frauds, fads, fallacies, and myths, as well as misconduct by medical practitioners. The free weekly digital newsletter *Consumer Health Digest* alerts the public to the latest news on this front.

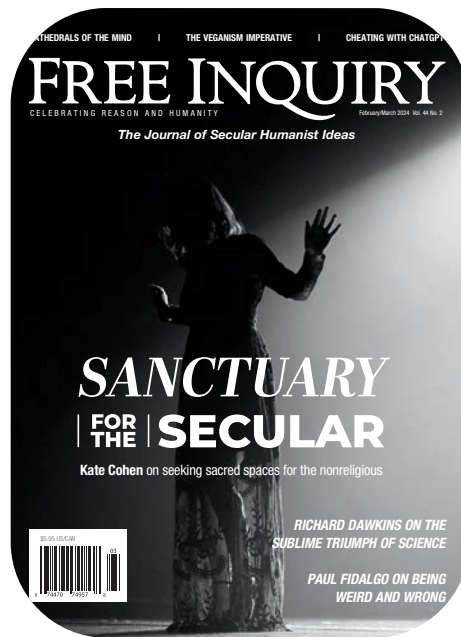
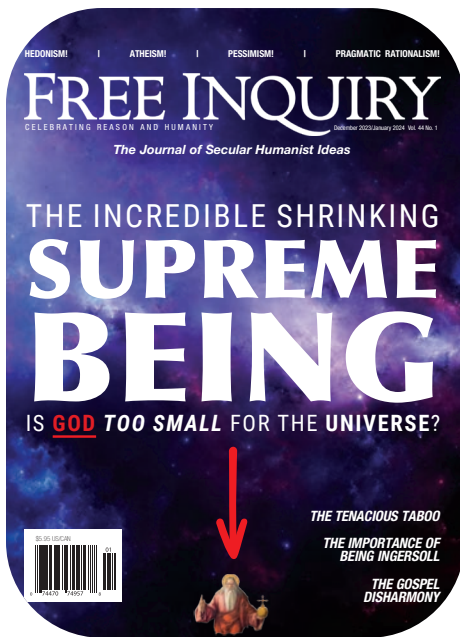
With Robert F. Kennedy Jr. now ensconced as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the "RFK Jr. Watch" will continue to serve as a go-to resource for coverage and analysis of his tenure and to demand accountability from public health agencies, including the FDA, CDC, and NIH.

Freethought

“The intellectual advancement of man depends on how often he can exchange an old superstition for a new truth.”

—Robert Green Ingersoll

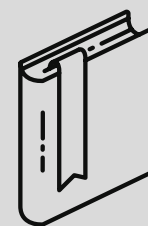




Free Inquiry: Fearless Examination of Life's Big Questions

For more than forty years, *Free Inquiry* has been dedicated to opinion and commentary espousing atheism, criticism of religion, and the ideology of free-thought. Under the stewardship of new editor Ronald A. Lindsay, the iconic journal of secular humanist ideas will continue to ponder the big questions and search for ethical and material truth.

Free Inquiry's cover features explored many topics, including how freethinkers and humanists can go about "winning" the culture wars, the insidious politicization of the religious community, the secular ethics of love, and more.

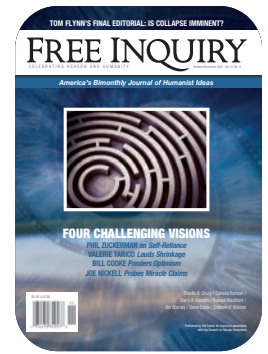
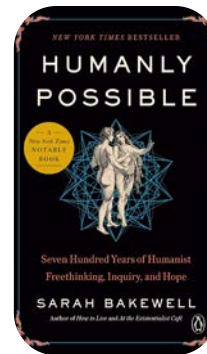
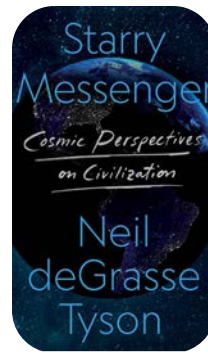


10,062

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

The Forkosch Awards: Celebrating Humanist Writing

The **Morris D. and Selma V. Forkosch Awards** were established by the Council for Secular Humanism and CFI to honor the year's finest humanist writing. The Morris D. Forkosch Award recognizes the best humanist book of the year, while the Selma V. Forkosch Award honors the most outstanding article published in *Free Inquiry* magazine.



Last year, the Council for Secular Humanism presented the Forkosch Awards for calendar years 2021, 2022, and 2023. The awardees included, among others, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Sarah Bakewell, and Stephen P. Weldon.



Point of Inquiry: A Podcast of Ideas & Ideals

Since 2005, CFI's *Point of Inquiry* podcast has continued to host some of the most gifted and perceptive minds of our time to participate in conversations about science, religion, politics, and culture. *Point of Inquiry* is available free on all major podcast apps and platforms.

Point of Inquiry guests last year included:



Writer **Sarah An Myers** on "Secularism and the Millennial Mind"



Author **Kate Cohen** on "Atheism and the Rewards of Honesty"



"There Are Definitely Atheists in Fox Holes" with author **Robert Richert**



Nigerian Humanist Association Founder **Dr. Leo Igwe** on the impacts of religion and belief in witchcraft throughout Africa



Stanford University biologist/neurologist **Robert Sapolsky** on "The Illusion of Free Will"



A conversation with business owner, retired peace officer, and Satanic Temple member **Steve Hill**



Immunologist **David Miles** on "How Vaccines Work"

The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science



Richard Dawkins
Foundation
for Reason & Science

The **Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science** (RDFRS) was created with a two-fold mission: remove the influence of religion in science education and public policy and eliminate the stigma that surrounds atheism and nonbelief. The foundation supports several programs in furtherance of these ideals, most famously the award-winning **Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science** (TIES) program and the work of the **Translations Project**.

Richard Dawkins continues to actively promote RDFRS and its mission online and as an in-person ambassador.



4

Translations Project
translators



4,500

Books downloaded
per quarter



83

Countries downloading
our books

CFI's Translations Project

The Translations Project is an ongoing initiative of the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science that produces professionally translated versions of major works on atheism and evolution into languages that are dominant throughout the Muslim world, including Arabic, Farsi, Indonesian, and Urdu. In 2024, the Hindi translation of one of Richard Dawkins's epic books on evolution was added after the government of India stripped the theory of evolution from the children's school curriculum. These translated works are made available to download completely free through the project's website, translationsproject.org.

Our dedicated translators and editors are united by a determination to make science and secularism readily accessible to readers all over the world. Most downloads of our books come from the countries of Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

New offerings from the Translations Project include:

- The Hindi translation of *The Greatest Show on Earth*
- The Arabic translation of *Climbing Mount Improbable*
- The Arabic translation of Jerry Coyne's book *Why Evolution Is True*

Secular Rescue: Providing Safety for Nonbelievers around the World

CFI's **Secular Rescue** program works to protect atheists and freethinkers who find themselves in danger of prosecution or violence from blasphemy laws, governments, and societies that target free expression and promotion of nonbelief. This vital program saves lives and provides emergency assistance to atheist rights activists—especially writers, bloggers, and publishers—whose lives and freedom are in danger because of their public advocacy of freethought and free expression for nonreligious views.

Thanks to the generous support of the Frank S. Robinson Enlightenment Fund, Secular Rescue provides lawyers to defend against charges of blasphemy, financial assistance to move secular advocates away from danger, and aid with food and living expenses.

Secular Rescue Saves Lives

Atheist Muhammad Mubarak Bala was sentenced to twenty-four years in prison in Nigeria for blasphemy and breach of public peace. Finally released in early 2025 after more than four years in prison, Bala wrote to thank Secular Rescue and Program Director Matthew Cravatta for the role they played in securing his release.

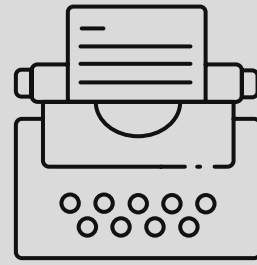
"I am writing you via the Center for Inquiry and its Secular Rescue program to express my gratitude and appreciation, to your commitments and actions over the years towards not just my release, but other injustices done to fringe individuals around the world"

Nabil, a freethought rights activist from DaiKundi in Afghanistan, has been in Cyprus for two years awaiting full refugee status.

"I'm now going into my second year here and my application for recognition as a refugee is still pending ... Still, I continue to endure and fight for my life and dreams. I still have hope. ... I just want to live with some dignity and peace. I want to live like a human being."

Iranian Journalist "Amir" (an alias) is living as a refugee in Canada.

"Religion in my country is a tool to keep people silent, and it is misused whenever necessary. ... Through one of my friends, I met Matt [Cravatta] at Secular Rescue, a dear man who has stood by my wife and me for the past three years, helping us start a new life."



33

Cases received direct
financial assistance



120–140

Received aid from Secular Rescue

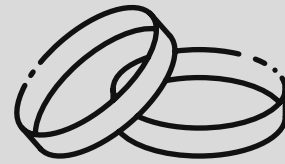


Secular Rescue Caseworker Kat Parker received the 2024 Distinguished Service to Humanism Award from Humanists International.

Providing Support & Training for Secular Celebrants

CFI-trained Secular Celebrants have solemnized hundreds of nonreligious marriages, memorial services, and other ceremonies since the program was created in 2009. Through these personalized ceremonies, couples and families have had the opportunity to celebrate new chapters in life and remember their loved ones in meaningful ways that respect their secular beliefs.

Secular Celebrants can legally solemnize marriages in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington, D.C. But in other states the rights of nonreligious people to act as officiates to solemnize marriages are limited. CFI is working through its lobbying efforts and through court challenges to give the non-religious that right everywhere.



50

Actively Certified Celebrants

84

Celebrants are coordinating renewal

Preserving the History of American Freethought

The Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum

Robert Green Ingersoll was known as “The Great Agnostic” and is recognized as the preeminent American freethinker of the nineteenth century. Ingersoll inspired freethinkers everywhere through courageous speeches and essays criticizing religion and promoting rationalism and human rights. The Council for Secular Humanism owns and operates the Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum in Dresden, New York.

Last year, the museum unveiled new exhibit elements to highlight the history of the museum building, celebrate luminaries and key figures from the museum’s past, and clarify the role Ingersoll’s father played on his path to agnosticism.

The museum also celebrated the successful conclusion of a years-long fundraising effort to digitize the historical archive of Ingersoll’s work. This effort will include more than 51,000 individual microfilm images created by the Library of Congress.

The Freethought Trail

The Freethought Trail is a collection of 185 locations that highlight the importance of nineteenth-century west-central New York in American secularism, abolitionism, and woman’s suffrage. The website describes each location with words and photographs and provides directions from one Freethought Trail location to another.



CFI Branches: Promoting Secular Values in Local Communities

The Center for Inquiry's Outreach Coordinator Eric Shaver and CFI's local branches organized a wide range of in-person and virtual programs last year, ranging from lectures and workshops to potluck dinners, game nights, and more. Highlights included a sold-out viewing party and potluck for the total solar eclipse in April (with CFI's Western New York headquarters directly in the path of the totality) and a nationwide series of private screenings of the documentary *Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy*.

CFI Ambassador **Susan Gerbic** organized multiple mini-conferences known as SkeptiCamps for local groups across the country and helped Shaver provide CFI branches and affiliate groups with the resources and training to promote local activities and engage skeptics and nonbelievers at the grass-roots level.



CFI Transnational: Sharing Enlightenment Values around the World

CFI continues to champion a secular, science-based perspective on the global stage. A few examples of the work and outreach of CFI international branches and affiliates outside the United States:

- Dr. Wafa Bahri became the Center for Inquiry's new advocate for the 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. She spoke in her native Arabic on the rights of atheists around the world and promoted the end to blasphemy laws that target critics of religion, especially in the Muslim world. Dr. Bahri met with several special rapporteurs to discuss the pursuit of humanist values, the rights of nonbelievers, and the essential freedom to reject and criticize religious tenets.
- Under the directorship of George Ongere, CFI Kenya provides assistance to orphans at the Humanist Orphans Center. CFI Kenya provides them with food, clothing, and educational expenses. The Sherry Sheng and Spike Wadsworth Farm and Market provides a mix of learning opportunities for farming and business skills. CFI Kenya also maintains a library, hosts community events, and recently started a student group at the University of Nairobi.
- In March, the Center for Inquiry Investigations Group collaborated with a science-based group in India that seeks to introduce people to more skepticism, critical thinking, and testing.
- CFI Argentina cohosted Jornadas de Pensamiento Crítico, a critical thinking conference that took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2024. The event featured presentations on the importance of critical thinking and topics ranging from flat earth theories and UFOs to anti-vaccine arguments, alternative medicine, and artificial intelligence. Alejandro Borgo, the director of CFI Argentina, emceed the conference, which included an appearance by *Skeptical Inquirer* Editor Stephen Hupp.

“As an advocate of the Center for Inquiry, we would like to reemphasize that the line between attack on people and criticism of ideas can be drawn easily and effectively ... We must all collaborate on the promotion of a framework for a secular society where reason, science, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values are used as benchmarks.”

—Dr. Wafa Bahri addressing the UNHRC



CFI's new UN advocate, Wafa Bahri, with the special rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), Nazila Ghanea.



George Ongere (CFI Kenya) on the Sherry Sheng and Spike Wadsworth Farm



Skeptical Inquirer Editor Stephen Hupp with CFI Argentina Director Alejandro Borgo at the Jornadas de Pensamiento Crítico conference.

Education

“ Do not indoctrinate your children. Teach them how to think for themselves, how to evaluate evidence, and how to disagree with you.”

—Richard Dawkins



Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES)

In April 2015, the **Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES)** held its very first workshop at the Frost Science Museum in Miami, Florida. What began as a single event has since blossomed into an award-winning, nationwide program that has conducted workshops covering all fifty U.S. states.

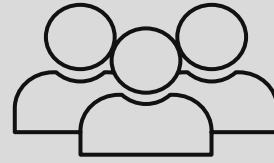
Originally created through the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science, TIES provides free resources and workshops for K–12 teachers, training them how to teach evolution to students effectively and answer its critics. Last year, TIES was recognized by the Middle Level Science Teachers Association and the Florida Science Teacher Association for its vital contributions to science education.

Workshops: TIES produces a series of free in-person educator workshops; last year, TIES hosted a total of twenty-three workshops in seventeen U.S. states.

"This workshop helped me to clarify the main aspects of evolution in a language that is friendly to the ages of our students. At the same time, it also provided links to resources that would strengthen my own understanding of this Theory."

—Keisha Lewis, Middle School Science Teacher

Webinars: TIES also hosts a series of free online webinars with popular science communicators; these webinars are recorded and later made available on the TIES YouTube channel. TIES presented thirteen webinars covering a variety of interesting topics—including presentations on evolution, natural history, and biology—that featured experts, authors, and educators.



450

Total TIES Workshop Attendees
in 2024



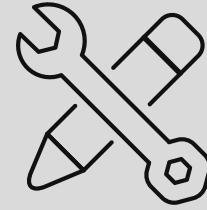
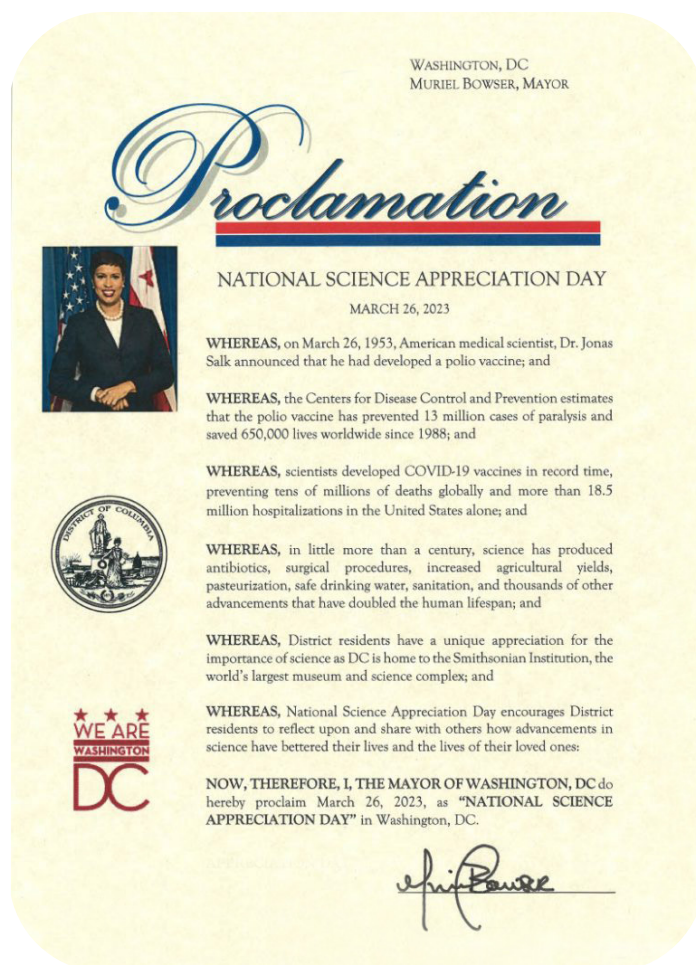
A Record Breaking Year for ScienceSaves

CFI's ScienceSaves program was created in collaboration with the Stiefel Freethought Foundation to encourage students, parents, and educators to celebrate science and the many ways it has improved, lengthened, and enriched our lives.

The program established **National Science Appreciation Day** on March 26 to commemorate the day in 1953 that Jonas Salk announced the success of the polio vaccination trials.

Last year:

- Twenty-three states as well as New York City and Washington, D.C., issued official proclamations to celebrate March 26 as National Science Appreciation Day.
- More than 400 college-bound high school seniors from across the country submitted videos for our 2024 Video Scholarship Contest, each one featuring an inspiring story of the positive impact science has had on them or someone they know personally.



20

ScienceSaves Workshops



One of the 2024 Video Scholarship Contest Winners,
Madison from Alabama

Critical Thinking & Generation Skeptics

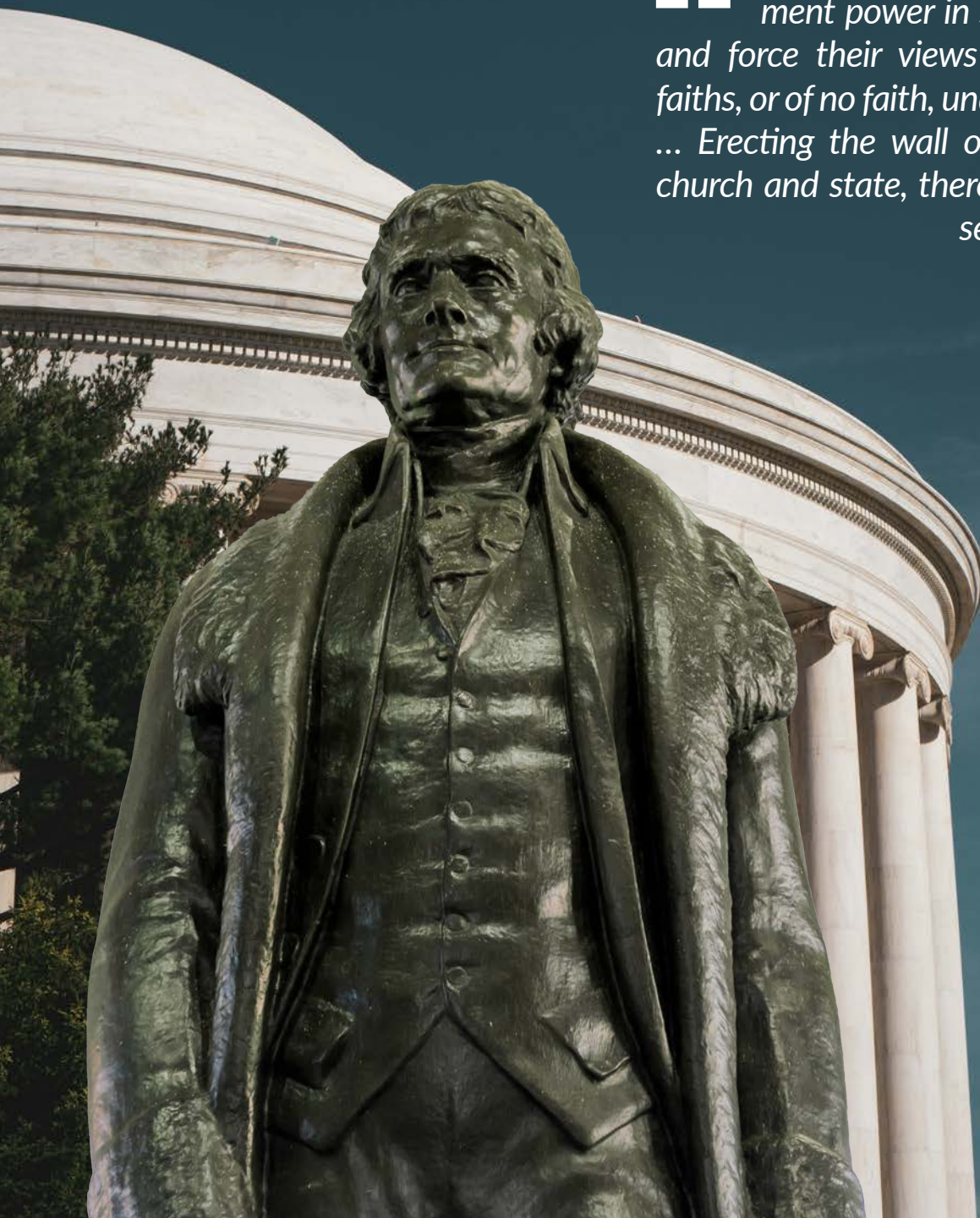
How to identify online misinformation and see through the come-ons of this AI-powered age is the goal of CFI's fun, hands-on program called Generation Skeptics. Free games and lesson plans help students exercise their skepticism muscles, learn how to identify misinformation, and develop critical thinking skills.

Generation Skeptics expanded to offer after-school and summer camp activity guides and hosted a series of in-person educator workshops. Bertha Vazquez also gave teachers what they were clamoring for: a series of short-form "bell-ringer" videos and classroom exercises on critical thinking.

Legal and Legislative Advocacy

“ Religious institutions that use government power in support of themselves and force their views on persons of other faiths, or of no faith, undermine our civil rights ... Erecting the wall of separation between church and state, therefore, is absolutely essential in a free society.”

—Thomas Jefferson



The Office of Public Policy:

CFI's Office of Public Policy (OPP) confronted a myriad of bills at the federal and state levels that threatened the wall between church and state and continued to advocate on behalf of reason, science, and secular values.

Highlights of 2024 National Activities

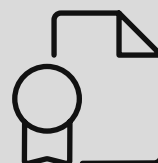
- CFI endorsed a Congressional Freethought Caucus resolution to designate Thursday, May 4, as the National Day of Reason.
- CFI pushed back against Congressional efforts to loosen oversight of the pseudoscientific “wellness” products, lobbying instead for increased federal regulation of homeopathy, and stepped-up enforcement of existing FDA rules.
- The public unveiling of the Christian nationalist policy playbook “Project 2025” rightly provoked widespread alarm. CFI signed on to a Congressional “Stop Project 2025” Task Force.
- OPP rallied supporters nationwide to oppose the federal Educational Choice for Children Act of 2024 that would have opened the door to religious school voucher programs.



Azhar Majeed, CFI's Director of Government Affairs

Highlights of 2024 State-Level Action

- CFI publicly urged Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry to veto the state's “Ten Commandments” bill, which requires the Commandments be displayed in every public school classroom in the state; Landry ultimately signed it into law, publicly stating he hoped to be sued over the decision.
- New efforts to introduce creationism or “intelligent design” into public school science classes in New Hampshire and West Virginia were thwarted thanks in part to CFI's lobbying efforts.
- OPP testified against “release time” bills in Ohio and other states that would require public schools to allow students “release time” for off-campus religious instruction during the school day.
- CFI took a new approach in Oklahoma and Texas, where Bible-based lessons had been approved by state school officials or legislators. OPP appealed directly to superintendents asking them to refuse the unconstitutional push to bring religion into classrooms.
- OPP confronted a wave of new “school chaplain” bills in states such as Iowa, Indiana, and Florida to allow public schools to hire unqualified religious chaplains as guidance counselors.
- OPP led successful campaigns in support of bills to ban child marriage in Washington and New Hampshire.
- Missouri lawmakers considered legislation giving licensure for naturopaths to practice in the state. OPP lobbied strenuously—and successfully—against this embrace of pseudoscience, which ultimately failed to pass.
- As part of CFI's long-running commitment to supporting legal recognition of “secular celebrants,” CFI rallied public support for a Michigan bill that would allow marrying couples to choose a secular celebrant (rather than a religious official) to solemnize their wedding.



167

bills tracked
by CFI

20

bills targeted
by CFI

General Counsel Richard Conn & CFI Legal

Legislative and legal efforts are both crucial parts of CFI's commitment to combatting pseudoscience and defending the rights of nonbelievers in the face of creeping theocracy. When bad laws are passed, the next step is to fight them in the courts.

In March 2024, CFI added some exceptional firepower to our Legal efforts when we welcomed **Richard Conn** as CFI's new general counsel. Conn brings an impressive background as an equity partner at the prestigious international firm Latham & Watkins and a deep commitment to our mission.

Conn said, "I am honored and delighted to be of service to CFI, a leader in the secular community. It will be a pleasure to help [CFI and its programs] increase their influence in promoting humanism and skepticism within the United States and internationally."

Conn has taken the reins of CFI's ongoing consumer protection litigation against the homeopathy manufacturer Boiron, expertly navigating the procedural back-and-forth of pretrial motions and vetting of expert witnesses while steadily moving the case toward trial.

Since joining CFI, he has quickly become a prominent advocate for the secular community, having been quoted by outlets including *The Washington Post* and the Associated Press. Conn has also leveraged his extensive connections at major firms to greatly expand the scope of what CFI can do to defend the separation of church and state through litigation.

CFI continued its trailblazing effort to gain legal recognition for secular celebrants, refiling a case in Texas to challenge the privileged status currently granted to religious individuals under Texas marriage law.



“Human rights are universal and should not be predicated on one's religious belief or nonbelief. Requiring religious affiliation in order to celebrate a marriage in Texas—and imposing criminal penalties on those who would choose otherwise—turns nonbelievers into second-class citizens. We believe this statutory requirement is unconstitutional and must be changed.”



4,700
Morning Heresy
email subscribers



The Morning Heresy, CFI's long-running email newsletter and thrice-weekly web column, continued to spotlight the latest news, analyses, and insights of interest to the skeptical and secular communities.



Social Media Numbers



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RDFRS X followers

46.8K

Skeptical Inquirer X followers



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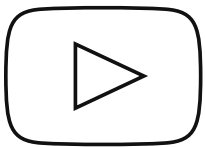
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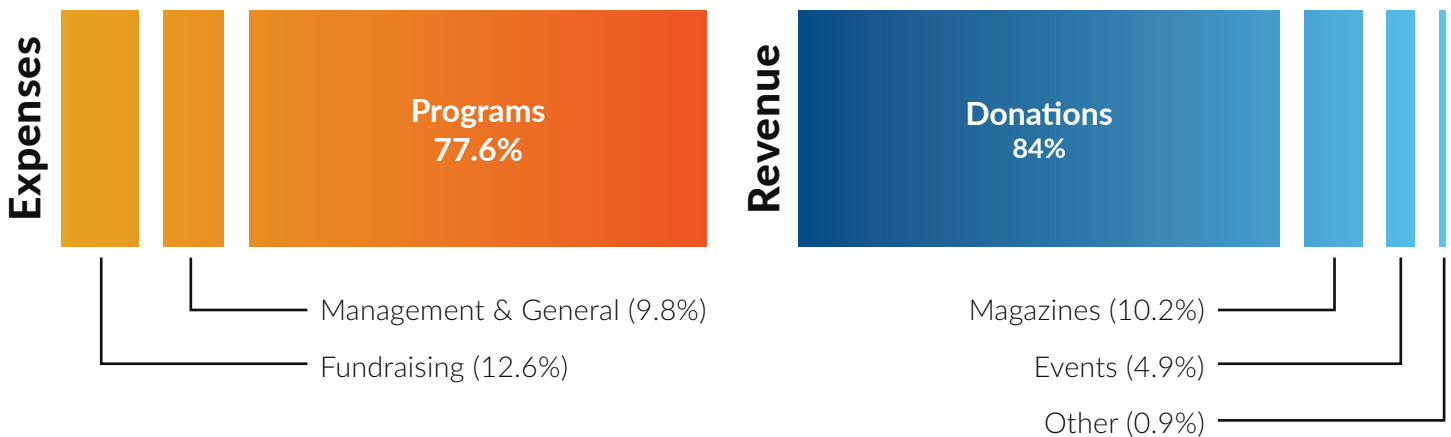
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When you give to the Center for Inquiry and its programs, you want your donation to be stewarded with care and attention to the mission. That's why we report our revenue and expense ratios here. In addition, our Form 990 is available on our website.

In 2024, we generated \$6,700,200 in revenue. Eighty-four 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 support from 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 in August.



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The Center for Inquiry is dedicated to promoting reason, science, and secular values. That has been our mission since what would grow into this organization was founded almost fifty years ago, and it remains true today.

In that time we have stood, resolute and unafraid, defending the Enlightenment values we cherish against theocrats, anti-science crusaders of all political stripes, and censorious efforts to limit our rights to think and speak freely. In the days ahead, the Center for Inquiry will vigorously oppose the Christian nationalist agenda, including what is outlined in Project 2025; we will redouble our efforts to defend church-state separation at the local, state, and federal levels, including keeping religious dogma out of law and public policy; we will stand against any attempt to weaken America's commitment to evidence-based public health or hand it over to peddlers of anti-vaccine pseudoscience; and we will continue to push back against conspiracy theorists and disinformation spreaders.

Thank you for supporting this important, ongoing work!
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