Message from the President and CEO

There is only one organization that stands against all of the damaging mythologies people cling to without evidence, and that’s the Center for Inquiry.

Unlike other groups with narrower goals, CFI brings the rigor of critical thinking to all claims of supernaturalism and magical thinking. We shine the light of reason on religious claims as well as those of alternative medicine practitioners. We act to protect people from the charlatanism of psychics, the quackery of homeopathy, and the empty promises of preachers.

We are advocating in the courts and the halls of Congress. We are building freethinking communities in cities and colleges across the country and around the world. We are supporting science teachers in their classrooms and at teacher conferences. And we are standing up for the rights of atheists and free expression at the United Nations and other international bodies.

We litigate, lobby, educate, rescue, and debunk. All toward one purpose: Advancing the cause of reason and science.

Of course, 2017 provided its own special challenges for the reality-based community. The Trump administration is top-heavy with religious Right extremists and science deniers.

President Trump has promised to repeal the Johnson Amendment and to put tens of billions of taxpayer dollars into private school vouchers. He’s given top appointments to a pack of religious zealots such as Ben Carson, Betsy DeVos, and Jeff Sessions—not to mention Mike Pence, whose lead Trump has followed with their dangerous expansion of “religious freedom.” This most irreligious of presidents is lavishing rewards on his religious Right supporters like a king opening the royal granaries.

Trump’s picks for the federal judiciary are especially consequential, with many appearing to hold more fealty toward the Bible than the U.S. Constitution. And at the U.S. Supreme Court, we are a single vote away from the emergence of a new doctrine that enshrines religious privilege in law.

But Trump’s administration provides CFI with a double-whammy, as it also embraces the science illiteracy of the anti-vaxxers and climate change deniers.

CFI is nonpartisan, but we don’t back down when our core values—the values of the Enlightenment—are under attack. Along with its subpart, the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science, CFI is pushing back against this onslaught. But we could not do it without you and your generous support.

Thank you for standing up for reason, science, and secularism. You help make us strong.

Sincerely,

Robyn Blumner
SECULAR RESCUE: An Underground Railroad for Atheist Activists

Religious fanatics have targeted secularists for slaughter in the streets, hoping to terrorize the critics of religion into silence. The Center for Inquiry has lost friends and allies in these attacks, and we have dedicated ourselves to doing all we can to bring to safety those whose lives are in danger for speaking their minds.

CFI’s Secular Rescue identifies those writers, activists, and everyday citizens in countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Iraq who are under threat of violence and death, doing all we can financially and diplomatically to help them escape and live. *The Atlantic* profiled Secular Rescue and its successes at the beginning of 2018, calling it the “Underground Railroad for atheists.”

Since its launch, Secular Rescue has given relocation assistance to thirty-six people and their families so they can begin new lives free from fear. About thirty additional cases are now under review.

Secular Rescue earned international recognition when Richard Dawkins introduced the program to audiences of NPR’s *Weekend Edition with Scott Simon* and *Real Time with Bill Maher*, as well as with profiles of some of those who have been helped in Scotland’s *Sunday Herald*.

**Lubna Yaseen**, a chemical engineering student from Iraq, faced constant threats against her safety over her outspoken advocacy of secularism and human rights. CFI helped her escape to the United States, and she told her story on *The Rubin Report.*

**AT A GLANCE**

- **36** Lives Saved by Secular Rescue
- **$96K** Raised to Save Lives
- **11** Bills Lobbied by Our Members
Inspiring a Love of Science in Students and Teachers with TIES

The Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Studies (TIES) has quickly become one of the brightest stars in CFI’s constellation of programs.

Led by the brilliant and dedicated Bertha Vazquez, its mission is to train middle school science teachers in the most up-to-date concepts of evolutionary science, preparing them to better communicate their subject, navigate anti-evolution backlash, and inspire young minds to develop a love of science.

TIES has made incredible progress in the space of a year:

TIES held nearly **fifty workshops across the country** while recruiting a committed bureau of facilitators.

The academic journal *Evolution: Education & Outreach* published a paper by Bertha comparing states’ standards for the teaching of evolution, and the *Palm Beach Post* ran an op-ed by Bertha opposing Florida’s new anti-science public education law.

In November, Bertha was honored by the National Association of Biology Teachers with their *Evolution Education Award*.

“I have to remind myself every day why I am working so hard; I want to share the thrill that ‘there is grandeur in this view of life’ with America’s young people.”

—Bertha Vazquez
Diluting the Danger of Homeopathy

Homeopathy is modern-day snake oil. It’s a $3 billion consumer fraud with no valid medicinal value. Yet CFI is one of the only groups fighting the hands-off treatment the homeopathic industry has received from federal regulators. And we are having a real impact.

CFI convinced the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to act. In 2016, the FTC told retailers that they had to warn consumers that homeopathic remedies have no scientific basis, an admission that they essentially do not work. And after years of CFI’s sustained effort, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced it would take a tougher stance against homeopathic products that endanger public safety.

Then we tried to get CVS Health, the largest pharmacy chain in the United States, to follow the new rules.

Go into any CVS and there are evidence-based remedies for colds and earaches sold alongside homeopathic products claiming to treat the same ailments. But there is no warning to consumers that one remedy has met scientific standards and the other is an expensive placebo. This is unacceptable.

Finally, in 2017, after repeated requests to CVS to follow the FTC mandate were ignored, CFI brought a consumer action complaint against CVS Health. CFI filed a formal complaint with the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to stop CVS from defrauding consumers with these useless products.
Celebrating Secular Celebrants

When a religious couple gets married, they can have this most deeply meaningful life milestone legally solemnized by someone who reflects their beliefs and values. But in most of the country, nonreligious couples must either take part in a religious ritual or settle for officiation by a government employee. We think that’s not good enough, and it is an unconstitutional privileging of religious beliefs.

That’s why CFI trains and certifies Secular Celebrants and why we have fought to make Secular Celebrants a legal option for couples in states across the country. CFI won a historic victory on this issue in Indiana in 2014, and we continue to make real progress in the courts and in state legislatures:

**Illinois:** A U.S. District Court ruled that Illinois must allow CFI-certified Secular Celebrants to officially solemnize marriages.

**Oregon:** The state legislature passed and the governor signed a new Secular Celebrant law, the ground having been prepared by years of work by CFI and its Portland branch.

**Ohio:** CFI’s Northeast Ohio branch assisted State Sen. Michael Skindell with the introduction of a Secular Celebrant bill; it was cosponsored by two other senators, including the senate minority leader.

Advocacy Successes:

Putting a stop to an attempt to proselytize to public school children, we convinced the Board of Education in Allegany County, Maryland, to remove an unconstitutional religious display at the entrance to a middle school classroom, avoiding an expensive legal battle.

The CFI-backed D.C. Death with Dignity Act remains in place despite congressional Republicans’ threats to undermine the will of the District and scrap the law, because supporters like you spoke out when called upon.
Fighting Religious Privilege at the Supreme Court

The right to religious freedom is being twisted into a license to discriminate against LGBTQ Americans and anyone else who does not conform to someone else’s dogma. In the Supreme Court case of *Masterpiece Cake-shop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, a wedding cake baker claims his faith gives him the right to discriminate against same-sex couples. CFI’s top legal minds, General Counsel Nick Little and CFI Board Chair Eddie Tabash, argued to the Court that ruling for the baker would “fatally undermine decades of anti-discrimination law in this country,” and our amicus curiae brief was co-signed by American Atheists and the Secular Coalition for America.

We know the difference between a city council and a board of education: one makes laws, the other literally decides what our children will be taught. So when sectarian prayer was ruled to be acceptable at school board meetings by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, we petitioned the Supreme Court to take up the case, arguing that the coercive impact of government-endorsed prayers on teachers, parents, and public school students must not be ignored.

CFI first exposed the House Republican scheme to slip a provision neutralizing the Johnson Amendment into a defense appropriations bill, earning coverage from outlets such as the Associated Press, Newsweek, and ThinkProgress.

During debate in the House, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) had CFI’s official statements on the Johnson Amendment read into the Congressional Record.

For now the Johnson Amendment remains in place, thanks in large part to the power of our combined voices.
Science Is Real

Science denial found new inroads into the centers of political power this year, but CFI and its allies have made clear that we will never back down in the fight for facts and real science.

We showed how polygraph tests are junk science, no better than a coin flip for telling lies from truth, when Attorney General Jeff Sessions reportedly sought to subject White House staff to lie detector tests.

We called on the Centers for Disease Control to stand firm for the integrity of science and the dignity of marginalized communities when they were pushed to avoid using terms such as evidence-based, science-based, fetus, and transgender in official documents.

We strongly denounced one of the most overtly dangerous and absurd ideas to come from President Trump: the appointment of anti-vaccination conspiracy theorist Robert F. Kennedy to a White House “vaccine safety” commission. Kennedy was central to spreading deadly falsehoods linking vaccines and autism, but the backlash seems to have been enough to stall the formation of this needless commission.
Fighting Blasphemy Laws and the Persecution of Nonbelievers around the World

Addressing the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Michael De Dora, then CFI’s chief representative to the United Nations, spoke eloquently for the rights of human beings over ideas, for free expression and freedom of belief, and for putting pressure on states that have failed so badly to uphold these rights.

“Beliefs cannot be rights-holders. How could an intangible concept—which could not appear before a court of law, or a jury of its peers, to explain or defend itself—hold a right equal to that of a living, breathing person?”
—Michael De Dora

CFI was honored to host Ahmed Shaheed, the UN’s Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, in Washington, D.C., where we cosponsored a public forum with Freedom House and joined Shaheed for meetings with members of Congress and White House officials.

At the 35th session of the Human Rights Council, CFI was ably represented by human rights activist Raheel Raza, president of the Council for Muslims Facing Tomorrow, who delivered a powerful statement against the horrific practice of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Blasphemy Targeted on Facebook

A man in Denmark was charged with the crime of blasphemy for posting a video of himself burning a Quran to Facebook. CFI called upon Denmark, which was the flashpoint for violent protests over blasphemy over cartoons of Mohammed, to repeal its largely ignored blasphemy law.

Facebook sent a delegation to Pakistan to discuss the government’s efforts to track down Pakistanis posting “blasphemous” content. We urged Facebook to protect its users and to use its leverage to encourage Pakistan to “abandon the theocratic, reactionary scapegoating of critics and dissidents.”
Richard Dawkins Engages Audiences and Sparks Debate

Richard Dawkins, whose book *The Selfish Gene* was named in a Royal Society survey as the most influential science book in history, twice toured the United States for live events sponsored by the Center for Inquiry. Over 1,500 people purchased tickets to see Richard as he headlined seven engagements in six cities.

Joining Richard on stage for fascinating, unscripted conversations were luminaries from the worlds of science, journalism, and entertainment:

Bestselling author of books such as *Moneyball* and *The Big Short*, **Michael Lewis**

*New York Times* science writer **Carl Zimmer**

Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist **Dave Barry**

Evolutionary scientist **Jerry Coyne**

Author and actress **Annabelle Gurwitch**

*Real Time with Bill Maher* comedy writer **Adam Felber**
CSICon Las Vegas 2017: Doubling Down on Skepticism

For the second year in a row, hundreds of skeptics assembled in Las Vegas for CSICon, and despite the cloud of unreason emanating from the White House, presenters and attendees made CSICon 2017 the best yet.

The four-day event featured an amazing roster of speakers that included Michael Mann, Eugenie Scott, Britt Hermes, Joe Nickell, Joe Schwarcz, and even a member of the European Parliament, Teresa Giménez Barbat. Plus:

Richard Weisman held a special on-stage conversation with Richard Dawkins.

Maria Konnikova was awarded the 2016 Balles Prize in Critical Thinking for her book The Confidence Game.

Filmmaker Natalie Newell presented the first public screening of her new documentary Science Moms.

Susan Gerbic made it her quest to conduct interviews with as many CSI-Con speakers as possible and succeeded in publishing well over a dozen for csicop.org.

During the conference, Communications Director Paul Fidalgo blogged furiously to bring real-time updates and analysis of the presentations for CFI Live at CSICon 2017 (at centerforinquiry.live).

CSICon will be back in Vegas in 2018 and bigger than ever. CSICon 2018 takes place October 18–21 at the Westgate Resort & Casino, and not a moment too soon.
We're Openly Secular, and We Vote

Openly Secular is a campaign designed to eliminate discrimination and increase acceptance of the nonreligious. This year the campaign’s roster of celebrity endorsements added comedian, author, and actress Annabelle Gurwitch, who made a funny and touching video for the campaign, telling our community, “Being secular people holds us to a responsibility to our community and to our planet that I feel is an extremely honorable way of living.”

On Openly Secular Day 2017 (October 20), 1,670 people sent a total of 12,645 messages to their elected officials in Congress and statehouses to show them that they have a large and active bloc of secular values voters that demands to be heard.
CFI: BRANCHES

From protesting and lobbying their representatives to hosting educational lectures and social gatherings, CFI’s local branches ramped up their efforts to build engaged and active communities of secular humanists, skeptics, atheists, and freethinkers.

Women’s March

The Women’s March on Washington on January 21 was a truly historic event, and CFI branches were there in force, organizing members in Michigan, Austin, Indiana, and Western New York to stand for women’s rights, LGBTQ equality, church-state separation, freedom of expression, and more. CFI Indiana Executive Director Reba Boyd Wooden was tapped to address the crowd at the Indianapolis march.
March for Science

Pushing back against the forces of climate change denial, creationism in schools, fake medicine, and more, CFI branches took to the streets for the March for Science, taking on leadership roles at marches across the country.

CFI Indiana’s Reba Boyd Wooden was one of eight speakers at the 10,000-strong Indianapolis march.

In Lansing, CFI Michigan was the sole sponsoring organization of the march, and Program Manager Jennifer Beahan gave a rousing speech to an estimated crowd of 6,000.

CFI Los Angeles Executive Director Jim Underdown performed a fake psychic reading on the main stage for the L.A. march.

CFI Northeast Ohio and CFI Western New York were intimately involved in the months-long planning processes for their local marches.
Getting Enlightened and Lightening up

Educational lectures at CFI branches featured topics such as fake news, free will, evolution, and medical marijuana. Plus:

Branches offered great interactive educational programming, such as CFI Portland’s eclipse viewing party and CFI Austin’s Darwin Day extravaganza that attracted over 500 participants.

CFI Northeast Ohio and CFI Indiana organized lobby days to educate members on engagement in the political process and to meet with legislators about our core issues.

CFI Michigan celebrated its twentieth anniversary, and its Secular Summer Retreat had eighty-five attendees enjoy a full weekend of outdoor activities.

New Digs on the West Coast

CFI’s Los Angeles community made a big transition in 2017, as they moved into a new home after the sale of their property at the Steve Allen Theater. The new facility on West Temple Street is closer to downtown L.A., with spacious and beautiful offices and a theater that will be used for all kinds of events, including the branch’s Feed Your Brain lecture series. In 2018, they will work on improving the theater, installing a kitchen and cafe, and even opening a small bookstore. The members of the CFI community in Los Angeles are putting in the effort to make this new place their own.
International Branches and Affiliates

The Center for Inquiry is not merely a U.S. operation. International branches and affiliates, widely ranging in size and scope, work to advance our mission in countries around the world. Here are just a few highlights of their work in 2017:

CFI Kenya is the only humanist organization in Kenya with a physical office location and resources aimed toward the advancement of science, reason, and freedom of inquiry. CFI Kenya runs the amazing Humanist Orphans program, providing children with the resources they will need to attend school, and in 2017 they worked to establish the new Ronald Lindsay Library, named for CFI’s previous president and CEO.

CFI China has established seven sub-branches across four provinces. Their work in 2017 included translating freethought and science books into Chinese, conducting field research on science and culture, taking part in academic conferences, and building a strong social media presence.

CFI Croatia has been helping the victims of fake psychics, “energy healers,” and other charlatans by educating the victims on the techniques that were used on them and rebuilding their self-confidence and dignity.

CFI Poland works to hold events such as debates and lectures, engage with scholars on topics such as secularism and blasphemy, and publish and translate secularist books.

CFI On Campus

Young people on campuses across the country have so much energy and talent that they want to use to advocate for reason and science, and the CFI On Campus program is there to guide and foster this new generation of leaders. Secular humanist, skeptic, and atheist student groups are provided with promotional materials, grants for large speaker events and conferences, and guidance for group leaders as they learn how to run successful campus freethought organizations. Many groups got involved in their local March for Science and organized large-scale educational events, such as the University of Northern Iowa Freethinkers and Inquirers’s Darwin Week and the Secular Society of MIT’s creative Carl Sagan Day celebration.
Skeptical Inquirer

Having just celebrated forty years in publication, *Skeptical Inquirer* took the challenges to science and reason head-on with timely and vital features. Highlights:

David Helfand warned how the public is being turned into “Google-fed zombies” and provided strategies for navigating the new Misinformation Age.

Jeanne Goldberg analyzed the way science has been politicized throughout history and the danger it poses to democracy.

Jeffrey S. Debies-Carl waded through modern conspiracy theories such as “Pizzagate” to understand how these lies become legends.

Philip J. Senter answered the question posed by young-Earth creationists: Could dinosaurs breathe fire? (No.)

Skeptical Inquirer also celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the publication of Richard Dawkins’s *The Selfish Gene* with a special issue, and the amazing James Randi made a triumphant return to the magazine he helped found with a new column.
Free Inquiry, the journal of secular humanism, grappled with some of the deepest questions of values and meaning for secular humanists.

World-renowned philosopher Daniel Dennett served as honorary chair for a “symposium in print” on naturalism in philosophy. Spanning three issues, the series featured contributions from luminaries such as Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, Russell Blackford, John W. Loftus, and Stephen Law.

Blasphemy was tackled in a special feature by Flemming Rose, former cultural editor at Denmark’s Jyllands-Posten and the man responsible for commissioning the famous “Danish cartoons” that sparked violent protests across the Muslim world.

Another provocative issue celebrated the role of blasphemy in art with contributions from blasphemous artists and a cover that featured a telling depiction of the Prophet Mohammed.

Prove Your Powers to the Investigators

It’s not enough to claim to have supernatural powers. (Or, at least, it shouldn’t be.) The Independent Investigations Group (IIG) wants to see it for themselves. Founded in 2000 and based out of CFI Los Angeles, IIG investigates and tests paranormal and extraordinary claims from mind-readers to dowsers to mediums.

Anyone who can successfully prove they have the powers they claim—under proper observing conditions—will win IIG’s $100,000 Challenge. With so many self-proclaimed psychics, mediums, and spellcasters out there, you might think that IIG has had to pay up many, many times. But so far, no winners. Ever.

A favorite example of testing paranormal powers in 2017 featured a martial arts expert who claimed he could knock people off balance without touching them. Provided with three willing and blindfolded subjects, he failed to knock anyone off balance...except maybe himself.
Freethought’s Rich History Brought to Light

Take a journey into a pivotal chapter of American history, spanning over two-dozen towns and more than 100 sites in west-central New York, telling the story of the country’s struggles for secularism and freethought, the abolition of slavery, woman’s suffrage, and more. Take a trip down the Freethought Trail, a project of CFI’s Council for Secular Humanism.

The Freethought Trail underwent a major expansion in 2017, expanding to 112 historical sites and covering even more of the history of abolitionism and Utopianism. Also expanded was coverage of additional women who were pivotal to winning woman’s suffrage and advancing woman’s rights.

Thanks to a generous grant from the James Hervey Johnson Charitable Educational Trust of San Diego, California, the Freethought Trail has undergone a complete redesign of its deeply researched website. The new site, featuring a greatly improved user interface and all-new graphics, went live in February 2018.

The Freethought Trail is also home to the Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum, honoring “The Great Agnostic,” showcasing Ingersoll’s originality, his wit, his power as a persuader, and his role in history—right in the Finger Lakes home where he was born. The Johnson Trust’s grant will also help underwrite a conference in Syracuse, New York, on August 18–19, 2018, celebrating the museum’s twenty-fifth anniversary.

Reasonable on the Internet? Inconceivable!

*Reasonable Talk* is CFI’s online video series, where the passionate and brilliant thinkers, writers, and activists at CFI events share their insights to enlighten minds, spark debate, and inspire action. Seasons 3 and 4 of *Reasonable Talk* brought some of the best presentations and conversations from Women in Secularism 4 and CSICon 2016, including *The New Yorker’s* Maria Konnikova on con artists, Dr. Paul Offit on the opioid epidemic, and unscripted conversations with Richard Dawkins and James Randi...and much more! Season 5 is already underway, with talks from CSICon 2017.
CFI LIBRARIES

Sharing information with patrons, members, staff, and the media is the primary mission of any library, and we answered over 270 reference questions by either email or phone call this past year. We digitized materials for about fifty or so of the questions (staying within copyright compliance). Timothy Binga, director of CFI Libraries, also serves as the treasurer of the Board for the Western New York Library Resources Council (https://www.wnylrc.org/), which participates in local and state-wide library initiatives.

The following donors contributed materials to the CFI Libraries during the 2017 calendar year:

- Anonymous
- Ed Buckner
- Buffalo History Museum
- Stephen R. Clark
- Valery Countryman
- Tom Flynn
- Estate of Henry Gordon
- Doug Kinney
- Estate of Marge Mignacca
- William Moyer
- Adam Neiblung
- Joe Nickell

Digitization Projects:
We are laying the groundwork for various digitization projects. Newspapers, pamphlets, photographs, and even some three-dimensional artifacts are to be digitized and placed on our websites and the websites of New York Heritage (https://nyheritage.org/) and the Digital Public Library of America (https://dp.la/).

A few of the items added to our collections this year:
What is unique about this item is that it is signed by all the participants.


**Point of Inquiry: The Next Generation**

Communications Director Paul Fidalgo, author of the daily news roundup *The Morning Heresy*, stepped behind the microphone (and into the editing software) as the new host and producer of CFI’s flagship podcast *Point of Inquiry*, where he’s had fascinating conversations with brilliant and accomplished guests:

*Washington Post* media columnist Margaret Sullivan

*The New Yorker’s* Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *The Sixth Extinction*

Space reporters Loren Grush of *The Verge* and *Scientific American’s* Lee Billings

Science communicators Yvette d’Entremont and Kavin Senapathy

Humanist leader James Croft of the St. Louis Ethical Society

Former Sierra Club Director Carl Pope, author with Mike Bloomberg of *Climate of Hope*

Earlier in the year, previous hosts Josh Zepps and Lindsay Beyerstein interviewed a wide range of fascinating guests, including Daniel Dennett and Dahlia Lithwick.

**Joe Nickell, Media Darling**

When the news media wants to get the reality-based perspective on ghosts, aliens, and other extranormal phenomena, they know who to trust: world-renowned investigator Joe Nickell.

Vox.com learned from Joe about why people believe they see ghosts.

ABC News’ *Nightline* looked to Joe for the skeptical view of an alleged crime-solving psychic.

CNN-affiliated *Great Big Story* profiled Joe’s science-based ghost investigations.

Plus, Joe was profiled in print by the UK’s *Daily Mail*; cited by the *New York Times*, Snopes, *Inverse*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*; and his wisdom was central to a piece on UFO belief at Futurism.
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<td><strong>January 10:</strong> On the <em>Waking Up</em> podcast, Sam Harris presents his conversation with Richard Dawkins from Dawkins’s CFI-sponsored speaking tour.</td>
<td><strong>February 9:</strong> The <em>Columbus Dispatch</em> talks to Monette Richards about CFI Northeast Ohio’s legislative efforts on Secular Celebrants.</td>
<td><strong>March 7:</strong> Benjamin Radford is a guest on WNPR’s <em>Colin McEnroe Show</em> discussing UFOs in American culture.</td>
<td><strong>April 23:</strong> CFI Communications Director Paul Fidalgo talks to <em>The Daily Beast</em> about the world’s changing religious demographics, particularly in regard to nonbelievers and Muslims.</td>
<td><strong>CFI Opposes Trump’s “Religious Liberty” Executive Order</strong> Coverage: <em>HuffPost, Columbus Dispatch, Windy City Times</em>, and even the Catholic League, which referred to CFI sneeringly as a “militant secularist organization.”</td>
<td><strong>Masterpiece Cakeshop and Trinity Lutheran: CFI Challenges Supreme Court to Reject Religious Privilege</strong> Coverage: <em>Vox, Deseret News, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel</em>, Outtake, Courthouse News</td>
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<td><strong>February 23:</strong> Michael De Dora is interviewed about Denmark’s blasphemy prosecution on the <em>Afternoons with Bob Breakenridge</em> radio show.</td>
<td><strong>March 29:</strong> Benjamin Radford appears on NPR’s <em>Kojo Nnamdi Show</em> to discuss the mystery of missing girls in Washington, D.C.</td>
<td><strong>April 24:</strong> CFI’s own Michael De Dora and Nicholas Little coauthor an op-ed for <em>Religion News Service</em> about why secularism itself is in fact America’s “first freedom.”</td>
<td><strong>May 22:</strong> VICE talks to Nick Little about the horrors of female genital mutilation and how it has been justified as being protected by notions of “religious freedom.”</td>
<td><strong>CFI Fights to Save the Johnson Amendment</strong> Coverage: <em>Associated Press, Newsweek, Vox, ThinkProgress</em> (twice).</td>
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<td><strong>Amanda Knox Takes on Religious Brainwashing in Prisons</strong> Using her own experiences in prison from the time she was falsely accused of a murder, Amanda Knox speaks at length to CFI Legal Director Nick Little about religious coercion in the prison system for a piece at VICE.</td>
<td><strong>Facebook Must Not Give In to Pakistan on Blasphemy</strong> CFI urged Facebook to protect free expression and the lives of its users by refusing to capitulate to Pakistani authorities hunting for “blasphemers” on its platform, and Michael De Dora spoke out against Pakistan at the UN Human Rights Council. Coverage: <em>Associated Press, San Jose Mercury News, World Magazine, Los Angeles News Group</em>.</td>
<td><strong>April 24:</strong> CFI’s own Michael De Dora and Nicholas Little coauthor an op-ed for <em>Religion News Service</em> about why secularism itself is in fact America’s “first freedom.”</td>
<td><strong>May 27:</strong> Richard Dawkins is interviewed on NPR’s <em>Weekend Edition</em> and discusses his work with CFI and his foundation.</td>
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### JULY

**July 11:** Bertha Vazquez of the Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science pens an excellent op-ed on Florida’s anti-science education law for the Palm Beach Post.

**July 16:** The Albuquerque Journal publishes a special piece by Skeptical Inquirer Editor Kendrick Frazier on the resiliency of the Roswell UFO myth.

### AUGUST

**August 7:** Robyn Blumner is quoted by Crux in a piece on the religiously unaffiliated’s alienation from the Trump White House.

**August 7:** CFI Michigan is noted for its charitable work at MLive, alerting citizens of the problem of lead contamination in their water.

**August 11:** Richard Dawkins appears on Real Time with Bill Maher and discusses TIES and Secular Rescue.

### SEPTEMBER

**September 2:** Scotland’s Sunday Herald profiles the Secular Rescue program and Richard Dawkins’s advocacy.

**September 3:** CFI’s Richard Dawkins and Monette Richards talk to The Daily Beast about being good without God.

**September 7:** The Los Angeles Times runs a letter from CFI Los Angeles’s Jim Underdown on the reality of the threat of climate change.

**September 25:** Wired publishes an expose on a Trump DOJ nominee who was part of the government’s experiments with Scientology “Purif” treatments, based on CFI’s work in opposing it.

**September 30:** WKTV previews CFI Michigan’s event with comedian Julia Sweeney, celebrating its twentieth anniversary.

### OCTOBER

**October 12:** WZZM TV in Grand Rapids reports on CFI Michigan’s National Coming Out Day event.

**October 24:** The Hartford Courant interviews Richard Dawkins about free expression.

**October 26:** Richard Dawkins is the guest on the Colin McEnroe Show on WNPR.

**October 30:** Gizmodo asks Benjamin Radford to help explain why people believe they see ghosts.

### NOVEMBER

**November 9:** Inverse recalls a deeply moving article about Carl Sagan written for Skeptical Inquirer by his widow and creative partner, Ann Druyan.

**November 13:** Lubna Ahmed, helped to safety by Secular Rescue, tells her story on The Rubin Report.

**November 24:** CFI Northeast Ohio’s Monette Richards is quoted by The Columbus Dispatch for the secular perspective on Christmas.

### DECEMBER

**December 18:** Gizmodo credits the Center for Inquiry for pushing the FDA to crack down on homeopathy.

**December 20:** Futurism takes an empathetic look at belief in ghosts, relying on the wisdom of Joe Nickell.

**December 24:** CFI's own "militant secularist" referred to CFI sneeringly as a "Catholic cult."
INSIDE CFI

As the Center for Inquiry continued to evolve as a national organization, it was reinvigorated with new talent joining the staff and familiar faces taking on new roles.

**Jason Lemieux** became our new director of government affairs. Coming from a career on Capitol Hill and in the U.S. Marines, he takes on the enormous task of leading the organization’s national advocacy efforts.

**Marc Kreidler** was promoted to director of digital product and strategy, and stepping into Marc’s previous position as web content coordinator was **Alexander Nicaise**, a recent University at Buffalo graduate in communication design.

**Matthew Cravatta**, a CFI veteran of almost fifteen years, took the reins of the Secular Rescue program, in addition to his duties managing CFI’s print and direct mail operations.

**Cody Hashman**, a part of CFI’s outreach staff since 2013, stepped up to undertake the nearly impossible: mastering the CFI and Richard Dawkins Foundation databases as the new systems administrator.
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In 2017, we raised a total of $7,040,908. Seventy-eight percent of that came from individual donors. The balance came from magazine revenue and similar earned income. CFI receives no government funding and very limited corporate support.

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These figures do not include bequests. 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.net in August.
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What’s Next?

Here are just some of the things CFI will be working on throughout 2018:

- **CSICon 2018**: The biggest skeptics’ conference will get much bigger, taking place at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, October 18–21.

- **Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Conference** in Western New York, August 18–19.

- **TIES webinar series**: Teachers won’t need to live near a workshop location to learn valuable new skills.

- **Translations Project**: A major effort to make freethought and science books available in the languages spoken in the countries that need them most.

- **The Four Horsemen Book**: A decade ago, Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Daniel Dennett, and Christopher Hitchens sat down for what became a historic conversation viewed by millions online and on DVD. In 2018, that conversation will be published in book form for the first time with new content from the original participants.

- **Website Overhaul**: The many-headed beast that is the Center for Inquiry’s many websites will be wrangled together and fully redesigned for a more modern look, easier use, and a unification of CFI’s many programs and initiatives.