

# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

*A Socratic society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is well worth living.*  
Member organization of the Humanists of Florida, the AHA, and ASHS. Find us at [www.metrodirect.net/humanist](http://www.metrodirect.net/humanist)

HOME

Page:

[1]

[2]

Volume 16 No. 7

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Join the Humanist Society and become rich in the abilities & appreciation that make life worthwhile.

See page 2 and send your dues to Hal East.

## The Death Penalty & The Magic of Numbers

A Discussion afternoon with a video stimulus from **Penn and Teller**

### On the value of Skeptical thinking

“Do not allow yourselves to be deceived: Great Minds are Skeptical. ... There is nothing more necessary than truth, and in comparison with it everything else has only secondary value.

This absolute will to truth: what is it? Is it the will to not allow ourselves to be deceived? Is it the will not to deceive? ... One does not want to be deceived, under the supposition that it is injurious, dangerous, or fatal to be deceived.”



**Friedrich Nietzsche** (1844 - 1900)

Skepticism is not an end in itself; it is a tool for the discovery of truths.

**Sydney J. Harris** (1917 - 1986)

**Warning! Warning!** The video programs we will present contain language which may test the limits of individual capacity for vulgarisms and naughty bits.

They defy labels, and at times, good taste. They've performed together for 30 years; skewering the genre of magic, their sold-out audiences, and themselves --

very often all at the same time, within one mind-boggling evening. Their latest project, "**Penn & Teller: Bullshit!**" for the Showtime network, is in its fourth season.

The controversial show, which has received six Emmy nominations and the 2004 WGA award for Outstanding Comedy/Variety Series, tackles the frauds and fakes behind such topics as talking to the dead, alien abductions and feng shui.



**Penn & Teller** have written three best-selling books, *Cruel Tricks for Dear Friends*, *How to Play with Your Food*, and *How to Play in Traffic*; and penned pieces in outlets ranging from The New York Times to Playboy.

### Can democracy Succeed?

This will be the subject of a forthcoming meeting in September or October (as scheduling permits). In anticipation of this, we urge members to look into the subject, and come with your own ideas about how, or if what we currently think of as a nominally democratic state is truly capable of being reinvigorated after a period of endemic corruption.

Many Humanists subscribe to the enlightenment notion that is the embodiment of Lincoln's state, "of the people, by the people, and for the people" and that it should not indeed "perish from the earth."

Thanks to a concerned member, we anticipate having several copies of a book entitled, *Ten Steps to Repair American Democracy* available at the July 2nd meeting for those who may wish to explore this issue further. We also hope to have a distinguished leader address the issue at the later meeting.

### Remember,

following our meeting, we will get together at the

#### Farmer Boy Restaurant

at 2129 Drew St. just a few blocks west of the Library.

Those of us who have sampled the cuisine came away well satisfied, and without substantial detriment to our personal wealth.

Please join us for this free open discussion.

Saturday,  
July 7th  
2:00 PM

Clearwater East  
Library  
2251 Drew St.  
Clearwater



Don't Forget...

Tampa  
Bay  
Harvest

There are Large numbers of homeless and hungry people in the Tampa bay area who are dependent on socially conscious citizens like us for life sustaining nutrients. **Bring a can, or box or two** for this meeting. It's the Humanist thing to do!



Humanists work to build a world in which happiness is the enduring criterion of social policy.

### What do Humanists Want?

1. To extend a human centered approach to the critical problems of life and society.
2. To encourage attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance and a loving generosity in human relationships, and in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others and encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture and experience.
3. To develop and popularize the skills of creative and critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition and irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.
4. To exalt those artistic and imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure and enlightenment, and which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, and other expressions, we embrace the essence of the human spirit.
5. To explore the grounds of ethics and morality within the unfolding history of our evolving culture. Such knowledge will enable us to become effective protagonists for the happiness of the individual person. JP

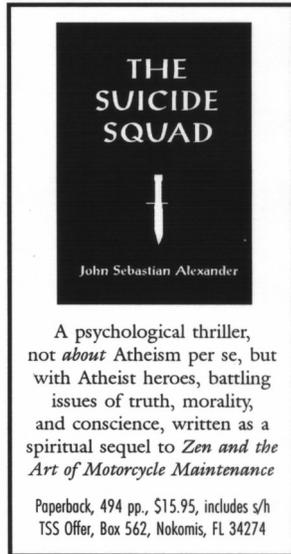
**The Moveable Feast ...**  
Our July social dinner will be held at

## Jorge's Seafood Grille

on Sunday July 22nd at 5:00PM.

This restaurant is located at 800 Clearwater-Largo Rd. in Largo just about 3/4 of a mile north of West Bay. The menu is mostly seafood but includes chicken and beef entrees also priced at about \$10-12.

Please make reservations with Glenn at 727-595-3347 or reply by email at <[glennkayp@juno.com](mailto:glennkayp@juno.com)> by Saturday July 21st.



A psychological thriller, not about Atheism per se, but with Atheist heroes, battling issues of truth, morality, and conscience, written as a spiritual sequel to *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*

Paperback, 494 pp., \$15.95, includes s/h  
TSS Offer, Box 562, Nokomis, FL 34274

### Sick Bay...

Hal East, our founder and treasurer is recovering at home Give him and Lucille a call at (727) 738-0912.

Miriam & Sidney Goetz are both dealing with Health problems. They are staying close to their new home in Palm Harbor, and would appreciate hearing from their friends.  
Call (727) 787-1984

Mitch and Katherine Modisett are going through some difficult times with health problems, but would love to hear from you. Give them a call at (813) 788-5516

### Laugh Lines... Current Advisories

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
9. Save for retirement starting with your next paycheck. (oops!)
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.

Thanks to *Connie Purdum*

**Our Humanist Society is actively looking for interesting speakers with novel and well thought out ideas on just about any subject of interest to a general audience . Let me know if you would like to recommend a person or organization. Call Jim at (813) 283-1645**

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc. the Association of Secular Humanist Societies

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Join us in our effort to ignite critical thinking, and restore reason, & genuine compassion to American life.

~ Join ~

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