

The Humanist Societ of the Suncoast

A Socratic society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is well worth living. Member organization of the <u>Humanists of Florida</u>, the <u>AHA</u>, and <u>ASHS</u>. Find us at <u>www.metrodirect.net/humanist</u>

Protecting "Marriage"

This November, Floridians will vote on Amendment 2, the so-called "marriage protection" amendment. Supporters of Amendment 2 present it to voters as a "gay marriage ban." In reality, this amendment prohibits the state of Florida from recognizing any other relationship that is not marriage, which means it could actually take away existing rights and benefits from millions of unmarried Floridians – both gay and straight.

If this amendment passes, unmarried Floridians in committed relationships - especially seniors who live together but are unmarried by choice – could lose their shared health insurance benefits and be barred from visiting each other in the hospital during emergency medical situations.

The proponents of Amendment 2 are using the bait and switch message of "gay marriage" as a red herring to inform voters of one very important fact: Florida already has four laws on the books that ban same sex marriage. If this amendment fails, "gay marriage" will still be illegal in Florida.

Floridians have fare more important things to worry about. Join the Tampa Tribune and nearly one doze n prominent newspapers in Florida by saying No to Amendment 2. Eddie Ayala for R&B We will have a speaker from the organization, Red & Blue to address this issue. Our condolences are extended to Karen Doering who will be unable to lead us because of a death in her family.

Area Humanists Host Statewide Conference

SARASOTA (March 17, 2008) – Humanists and fellow progressives who value freedom, equality, social justice and rational thought will convene from around Florida at the Sarasota Hotel and Marina from May 9 through 11. Keynote speaker David Sloan Wilson will introduce the conference theme, "Evolving Humanism: An Agenda for the Future."

Wilson, an evolutionary biologist from the State University of New York, Binghamton, also publishes across disciplines as diverse as anthropology and philosophy. Regardless of subject area, one of his topics remains central: Selfishness may benefit an individual struggling to survive, but a high standard of morality – instead of selfishness – benefits everyone.

Joining Wilson on the conference program are Alan Charney, program director for USAction who will discuss how we can advance a progressive agenda after the 2008 election; Alan B. Grindal, a frequently celebrated Sarasota neurosurgeon who will address facets of aging and consciousness on the brain; and Ronald A. Lindsay, Legal Director for the Center for Inquiry who will talk about the case he's helping litigate against the state of Florida for providing tax dollars to religious organizations working with

Nadine Smith, of Equality Florida, will be honored at a dinner banquet May 10 as the Humanists of Florida Association's Humanist of the Year. To learn more, visit www.floridahumanist.org or email flahumanists@gmail.com. Contact: Gin Kohl Lieberman vkohl@tampabay.rr.com (813) 263 - 0715



Don't Forget...

Religious Extremists dominate Legislature

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, box, **or two.** It's the Humanist thing to do!

While major problems of tax equity, funding essential Tampa educational and medical programs, addressing crucial environmental measures, and ensuring the financial solvency of the state have received scant attention, the legislators in this session have addressed -with some fervor- getting rid of church/state separation in the constitution, making gay marriage illegal, keeping evolution out of the schools, allowing guns in the workplace, and providing Christian license plates, among other triumphs. They are also helping to limit the population influx by simply making it too embarrassing to live here. Fortunately, the session will be over soon before too much more progress can be made.

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May, 2008

Next Month, be sure to come by for the Annual,

Hyde Park Potpourri!

Tell us what you have learned, or ask a question you long wanted answered.

Elections

will take place at this month's meeting. We meet only three times a year, and we need participation by as many people as can commit to this small amount of time. Please Run!

Please join us for this free & open discussion.

> Saturday, May 3rd 2:00 PM

Clearwater East Library 2251 Drew St. Clearwater

Following our meeting, we will dine together at the

> **Farmer Boy** Restaurant

at 2129 Drew St. just 2 blks west of Library.



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

Our May social dinner will be held at

Tucson's

Tex-Mex Restaurant

on Sunday, May 18th at 5:00PM. The restaurant is located at 13563 Icot Blvd just off Ulmerton Rd. in Clearwater.

To confirm your reservation, call or write Glenn Paul at glennkayp@juno.com or call 727-595-3347 by Saturday the 17th.

Sick Bay

Hal East, our founder has been hospitalized. Give Lucille a call at (727) 738-0912. Lucille says Hal is grateful for a visit with any of his friends. He is at:

Encore Senior Care Village

Harold East, Unit 7, Room 707 620 Belleair Rd Clearwater, FL 33756 **727 467-9464** (ask for Unit 7) or **727 743-1063** (Hal's cell phone) It may take him a few minutes to answer, but he usually gets the call.

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) 788-5516

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

Call (813) 531-8138 for changes to this list.

JР

Laugh Lines

Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one?

If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhea . . . does that mean that one out of five enjoys it?

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?

Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a racecar is not called a racist?

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP? Do Lipton Tea employees take "coffee breaks?"

What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men? Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Is it true that you never really

learn to swear until you learn to drive? 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) 531-8138

HUMANIST SUNCOAST

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

Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

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> Glenn Paul Publisher. Jim Peterson, Editor

> > E-Mail us at:

sunhum@metrodirect.net

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

~ Join ~

The Humanist Society

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