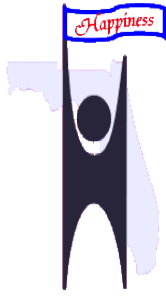


# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

*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)



## Is Religion in our Genes?

Dr. Lynda Gurvitz will explore current theories and research related to the idea that religiosity and religious experience are "hardwired" in the human brain, and that is why it is so difficult for rationalists and religious people to come to any meeting of the minds.

In preparation, members may wish to read Julian Jaynes [The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind](#). There is also an article in the October/November issue of Scientific American [Mind](#) magazine called "Searching for God in the Brain," by David Biello that sums up the research nicely.

Lynda Gurvitz is a licensed clinical psychologist and have been practicing in the area for close to 30 years. One of her interests is neuropsychology - the relationship between brain structure and cognition. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from Arizona State University. While she has not done formal research in this area, it has long been a matter of some interest to her.

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Members might recall that this argument is reminiscent of the question of free will. To what extent if any, are we as functioning intellectual entities responsible for the socially conditioned outcomes of our cognitive process? The non-empirical basis of religious belief and the very compelling accumulation of sociological evidence for religious belief systems frame a contemporary argument whose outcome is a vital question for the fate of our civilization. We can look forward to a lively discussion springing from the insights of Dr. Gurvitz. JP

## Elections

Yes, it that time again. Another golden opportunity for you to serve on the board of directors, or as an officer in our organization. This year will be a wonderful time for us to consider where we have been, where we are going, and who we are. Do we want to be something beyond a group of friends sharing philosophical perspectives and dinner?

If we wish to expand our numbers, how do we effectively go about doing it? Perhaps we don't want to grow, but simply prefer to continue as we have been, content with the satisfactions in the relationships we have formed. The nature of our corporate mission is up to you. We will have a period after this discussion to review our options. Please come and bring your ideas. JP

Volume 17 No. 3

March, 2008

Join us in April to hear members of the **Tampa bay Post Carbon Council** discuss the local implications of climate changes and oil depletion.  
**+ Elections**

## 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,  
March  
1st  
2:00 PM

Clearwater East  
Library  
2251 Drew St.  
Clearwater

## DON'T FORGET!

This is Dues time for Humanist Society members.

See the rate on the back and send in yours today. While you're at it, let us know of any suggestions about subjects you would like to see us try, and/or new venues for our gustatory and aesthetic exercises.

### Hal East

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.



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

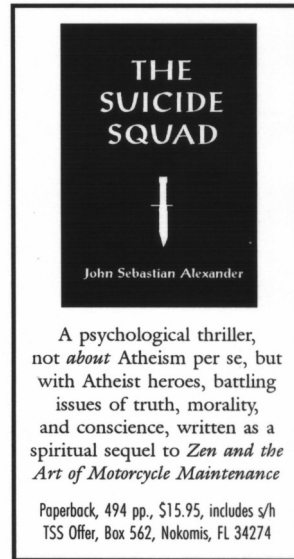
The Moveable Feast...

## the Pizza Shack

11963 Indian Rocks Rd just a block north of Walsingham Rd in Largo about 1 1/2 miles east of Gulf Blvd.

Learn more at: <http://www.pizza-shack.com>

We will gather at 5:00 on Sunday afternoon, March 16th. To confirm your reservation, call or write Glenn Paul at [glennkayp@juno.com](mailto:glennkayp@juno.com) or call 727-595-3347 by Saturday the 15th.



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*

### Sick Bay

Hal East, our founder has been hospitalized. Give 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) 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 changes to this list.

## Laugh Lines

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger....and then it hit me.

Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the guy whose entire left side was cut off? Well!!! He's all right now.

The butcher backed up into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

A thief fell into wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.

Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.

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 SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

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Meets Sept., December, April

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E-Mail us at:

[sunhum@metrodirect.net](mailto:sunhum@metrodirect.net)

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

~ Join ~

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast.

☞ Trial -3 month- free news

☞ Regular -\$30.

☞ Reg. Couple -\$40.

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(Privacy respected)

Send to: Glenn Paul, Treasurer  
Suncoast Humanist Society

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Indian Rocks Beach  
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