

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 <u>Humanists of Florida</u>, the <u>AHA</u>, and <u>ASHS</u>. Find us at <u>www.metrodirect.net/humanist</u>

What Does It Mean to Be a Naturalist?

Professor Bill Hall will discuss the surprising origins of philosophical naturalism, delineate what naturalism entails, and discuss Charles Darwin, whose birthday we celebrate on the 12th of February, as an exemplar of a methodological naturalist.

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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 It would be nice if any one could call, or stop by for a short visit Hal 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!

Yahoo! Groups Skeptics/Humanis http://groups.yahoo.com/group
His hobbies include playing chess brainteaser puzzles, studying the confounding Christian apologists.

Characteristic of the Humanist movement is an attempt to understand our humanity through the methods of science. Science places us in the context of the material world and by achieving an ever more accurate knowledge of ourselves within that world, enables us to develop our freedom and improve our social life. There is a distrust of metaphysics, intuition, and revelation; culturally based belief systems not subject to empirical testing.

Besides this confidence in a method, humanistic naturalists have an organic perspective on humanity and nature. We are of nature and not apart from it. Dualisms that separate in kind or substance, mind and body, mental and physical, and humanity and nature are rejected; reality is nature. Rather than drawing an arbitrary line between nature and ourselves, we strive to see the continuity.

This continuity moves from physical processes to the biological to the intellectual. Our mental processes are organically based, and in turn our biological processes result from the physical nature of the cosmos.

Humanistic naturalists focus on humanity, putting nature into our perspective, not making our perspective that of nature. They essentially view human beings pragmatically. The stress is on discovering new freedoms, improving self-understanding and the social and material conditions of human life. The scientific method provides the means for us to see ourselves as we truly are, without the distortions of delusional paradigms.

Tampa
Bill Hall is a philosopher specializing in the philosophy of science, the philosophy of religion, and critical thinking. He has taught in the communications department of St. Petersburg College for the past nineteen years. Bill is a member of The Center For Inquiry (CFI) and serves on the executive council of The Tampa Bay Skeptics. He is also active in the online freethought community and runs the Yahoo! Groups Skeptics/Humanists discussion list at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/skepticshumanists/. His hobbies include playing chess, collecting and solving brainteaser puzzles, studying the magical arts, and

Volume 17 No. 2 February, 2008

Join us in March to hear Psychologist, and member, Lynda Gurvitz discuss the proposition that religious behavior is a product of our genetic makeup.

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, February 2nd 2:00 PM

Clearwater East Library 2251 Drew St. Clearwater





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...

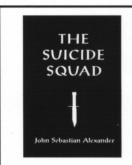
ІІІМЯЗЧЧЗЧ ЗАТ

At 1575 South Ft. Harrison Clearwater, Florida 33765 727-449-2988

Learn more at:

http://peppermillofclearwater.com/index2.php

We will gather at 5:00 on Sunday afternoon, February 17th. To confirm your reservation, call or write Glenn Paul at glennkayp@juno.com or call 727-595-3347 by Saturday the 16th.



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 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

Did you know ...

When you sneeze, all bodily functions stop, even your heart! Only 7 per cent of the population are lefties.

Forty people are sent to the hospital for dog bites every minute.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until they are 2-6 years old.

The average person over 50 will have spent 5 years waiting in lines.

The toothbrush was invented in 1498.

The average housefly lives for one month.

40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.

A coat hanger is 44 inches long when straightened.

The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute.

Your feet are bigger in the afternoon than any other time of day.

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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***-**-**

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E-Mail us at:

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

~ Join ~

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast.

of the Suncoast.
Trial –3 month– free news
Regular -\$30.
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life Couple -\$250.
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