

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

Our Program for Saturday, April 4th. Making Humanism a Philosophy for Everyday Life: Part B



For the majority of the world's people, religion forms the foundational worldview that determines the context of everyday life. In earlier times it held the only available knowledge about the universe and its origins. Religion provided an organizing principle in constructing society and informing its institutions. These circumstances gave religion great power which it was not loathe to use in disciplining adherents and non-believers alike through its control of the power of the state. The very landscape of urban areas all over the world is dominated by the architectural symbols of religious domination and authority, even in places where such supremacy no longer obtains. Ecclesiastical careers have been made and skeptical lives lost in the struggle for and against the consequences of churchly hegemony. But despite the seemingly overwhelming power arrayed against doubters, skeptics, and outright atheists, we now find ourselves in a situation where a large proportion of the world's population has declared itself openly as "unchurched." In the U.S. alone, as many as 35 million of us declare our selves in that category. In Europe and Asia, the numbers are much higher. How has this come to be? What will this mean for the condition of society as we strive to meet the enormous problems of runaway population growth, climate change, and resource depletion? How will we meet the future? To understand more of the parameters of this question, we will present a short but provocative film by Richard Dawkins entitled, "*The Root of all Evil*". Afterward, we will host a group discussion of what we have seen to further enhance our appreciation of how we have changed. JP

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Renewal

This is our annual membership renewal period.

The board is happy to announce that for the 2009 period we are **reducing** dues to: **\$25 per individual** and **\$30 per couple**.

This will allow more members to continue, and new members to join in these difficult times.

Don't Forget...



**Tampa
Bay
Harvest**

An Urgent Appeal!

Because of the economic crises we are all experiencing, 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 nutrition.

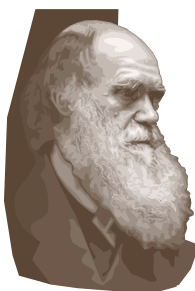
Please...

Bring as many boxed and canned food items as you can to this meeting.

With the important help of Glenn Paul and Tampa bay Harvest, we can do our part to help relieve significant human suffering.

It's the Humanist thing to do!

The Darwin Bicentennial and the Year of Science Project



A steering committee has been formed to develop a program to honor the great scientist, Charles Darwin and to bring attention to the science of evolution and the great scientific project in general. Among the participants are the Center for Inquiry, the Humanist

Society of the Suncoast, and Atheists of Florida. CFI has undertaken a poster project to encourage children in Schools to create original posters showing the importance of Darwin and the scientific method.

A special web site is being created to coordinate our local events. Its address is:

www.evolutetampa.com

JP

The Philo Café

For those of you living in Tampa, Fridays at 6:30 pm at the [Carrollwood Cultural Center](#) at 4537 Lowell Road, in Tampa is a great way to spend 2 hours on issues of philosophical importance. Group selects topics.

**Please join us
for this
free & open
discussion.**

**Saturday,
April 4th
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.

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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 monthly social dinner, The Moveable Feast...

Ya Ya Chicken Picnic

In lieu of a restaurant social dinner for April 19th, we are going to have a Ya Ya's chicken dinner with any optional covered dish you wish to bring at Jackie's place located centrally in northeast St. Pete in Pinellas County.

Free to members, there is a nominal \$7 cost per non member for the dinner. [New non members could skip the \$7 by becoming paying members.] We also encourage attendees to bring an appetizer or dessert, etc. to compliment the chicken dinner.

Contact Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email at kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com
Reservations are essential by Saturday, April 18th.

Laugh Lines Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to 'put your two cents in'... but it's only a 'penny for your thoughts'? Where's that extra penny going to?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change?
They're going to see you naked anyway..

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner? 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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~*~*~*~*~*

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Have an Idea, opinion or essay you want to share?

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 of the Suncoast.

- ☞ Trial -3 month- free news
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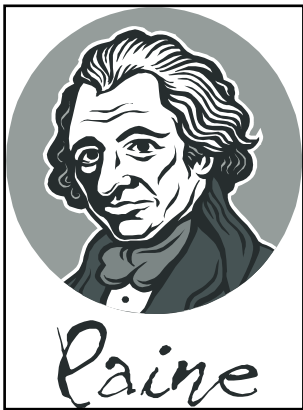
City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Privacy respected)

Send to: Glenn Paul, Treasurer
Suncoast Humanist Society
2507 First St. #E
Indian Rocks Beach
33785-3010



MAY MEETING

Joyce Chumbley, a director of Thomas Paine Friends, Inc., and co-editor of the recently published book "[Thomas Paine: In Search of the Common Good](#)," is scheduled to talk to us about Paine, the freethinking radical who raised and spread the cry of revolution in the American colonies with "Common Sense," served in the French revolutionary assembly, and fell into disrepute in the U.S. following the anti-clericalism and deism expressed in his "The Age of Reason." Perhaps also because of his progressive political views, he has been the least known of the "founding fathers."

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Earth Day at Lowry Park Band Shell

1101 W. Sligh Ave.

Sun. April 19

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free Parking Free Admission

Exhibits and Demonstrations for Smart Living

Organic and Natural Products Green Home and Garden

Energy and Water Conservation Wildlife Displays

Children's Activities Arts and Crafts County Services

Community Agencies Music

For information, go to www.florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay



Our Humanist Picnic

In lieu of a restaurant social dinner in April, we are having a picnic at Jackie Jordan's condo clubhouse on Sunday April 19th at 4:00 PM until about 7:00PM. We will have as our main course a complete **Ya Ya's** chicken dinner with potato salad, beans, and slaw all FREE to all paid up members. For guests and unpaid members there will be a nominal \$7 charge [an incentive to pay your dues if you haven't already?] We encourage attendees to bring a dessert or appetizer if willing [not required] and their choice of drinks. Cups and utensils will be included with dinner.

Jackie's clubhouse is located at the 10691 Roosevelt Blvd at Village lake Condominiums on Roosevelt Blvd about a block southeast of 9th St [ML King] * on the northeast side of Roosevelt in north St. Pete. The clubhouse is straight in after you enter the condo development. It is very important that everyone parks in the guest spots only near the clubhouse and not in resident's spaces. Since the chicken dinners must be ordered by Saturday night, April 18th - Reservations are a must by April 18th! A swimming pool is available for those interested - but no wet clothing is allowed in the clubhouse. This picnic should be a lot of fun, so we hope to see you all there. Call Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email reply at kpaul@tampabay.rr.com for reservations.

* see map [Here](#)

***"Are we not formed, as
notes of music are,
For one another,
though dissimilar?"***

~Percy Bysshe Shelley