

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 [CSH](#). Find us at www.metrodirect.net/humanist

August 1st



Seminar Synopsis – *Weathering the Stormy Seas*

There is never a dull moment in the world of investing. And most investors would agree that keeping pace with the increasingly volatile nature of today’s markets can be difficult. In recent years, we have witnessed both ups and downs in the stock market and the market’s extreme volatility in 2008 has caused concern among investors. Steep declines and sharp increases, sometimes occurring within the same day, often trigger nervous reactions from investors. And, once again, we are going through a time of Stormy Investment Seas. But don’t let short-term market fluctuations shift the focus away from your long-term goals. The purpose of this seminar will be to discuss time-tested financial strategies that may help you be an intelligent investor who knows how to stay the course to best achieve your financial goals. These ideas may help you ride out the current financial “storm”, and any future storms as well.

Sharon Gwozdz is a Financial Services Representative with First Investors Corporation and specializes in helping individuals as well as couples achieve their financial goals and prepare for retirement. Sharon specializes in retirement, business, college, life insurance, and the Florida Retirement System, just to name a few. Sharon is originally from Cleveland, OH and received her BA from Wells College in upstate New York. After graduation, she opted for a change of climate and moved to Tampa in 2004. Sharon is currently the Program Chair for the Tampa Bay Business Guild* and has recently been appointed to Vice President of the Guild.

*First Investors Corporation is not affiliated with the Tampa Bay Business Guild nor makes any representations as to the services and resources that the Tampa Bay Business Guild provides.

While the outline above is a little constrained by corporate approval, I can report that in my personal conversation with Sharon, she seemed quite personable, and responded positively to my request that she take into account the broader range of interests we have. She will entertain questions, about the impact of recent events on both personal and community issues after her talk. While she will have materials about her services available, this will not be a sales pitch.

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Dave Dockerty, President of the **Tampabay Computer Society**

Digital wizard and master of the internet will share some of the hard won wisdom and many cogent observations that make him a Humanist ...and a guru.
**Next time —
September 5th**

**Please join us
for a free and
open
discussion.**

**Saturday
August 1st
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.

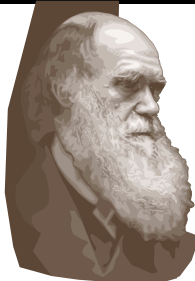
Don't Forget...



**Tampa
Bay
Harvest
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.



The Darwin Bicentennial and the Year of Science

**Find out what activities are
planned for this Year of Science
in our area.**

www.evolvetampa.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.



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 for August is at:**

Savory Restaurant

located at 12881 Walsingham Road at the east end of a small strip mall in Largo on Sunday August 16th at 5:00PM. Walsingham is an extension of Ulmerton and this red and yellow colored restaurant is located at the junction of the two with a bright sign out front. The Savory is a rather low priced eatery offering everything from salads, sandwiches, eggs, pizza to early bird dinners and plenty of Italian dishes - a good wide range.

To confirm your reservation, call or write Glenn Paul at kpaul29@tampa.rr.com, or call 727-595-3347 by Saturday the 15th.

Laugh Lines

**Birds of a feather flock together . . .and then
crap on your car.**

A penny saved is a government oversight.

**The real art of conversation is not only to say the
right thing at the right time, but also to leave
unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.**

**The older you get, the tougher it is to lose
weight, because by then your body and your fat
have gotten to be really good friends.**

**The easiest way to find something lost around
the house is to buy a replacement.**

He who hesitates is probably right.

**Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for
forty (40) are XL.**

**If you think there is good in everybody, you
haven't met everybody** 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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Have an Idea, opinion or
essay you want to share?

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.*

- ☑ Trial -3 month- free news
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**Send to: Glenn Paul, Treasurer
Suncoast Humanist Society
2507 First St. #E
Indian Rocks Beach
33785-3010**

If you're not seriously scared

by the current prognosis for climate change you haven't been paying attention.

As Paul Krugman [put it](#) in the *New York Times* (7/13/09):

"...the consensus of the climate experts is utterly terrifying. At this point, the central forecast of leading climate models – not the worst-case scenario but the most likely outcome – is utter catastrophe, a rise in temperatures that will totally disrupt life as we know it, if we continue along our present path. How to head off that catastrophe should be the dominant policy issue of our time."

In [another column](#) (6/29/09), Krugman rightly says we are morally obligated to act on the basis of our best science:

"...we're facing a clear and present danger to our way of life, perhaps even to civilization itself. How can anyone justify failing to act?...the existential threat from climate change is all too real. Yet the deniers are choosing, willfully, to ignore that threat, placing future generations of Americans in grave danger, simply because it's in their political interest to pretend that there's nothing to worry about. If that's not betrayal, I don't know what is."

All of us have to make action on behalf of sustainability part of our routine right away, otherwise our efforts in non-climate related domains are essentially for naught. All our future-oriented actions, personal and collective – educating our children, advocating for human rights, championing naturalism or our preferred brand of enlightenment – all these assume sustainability, having a future in which they bear fruit. But we're not motivated to act on the future's behalf since the threat isn't sufficiently salient. We know about it intellectually, but not viscerally, so comparatively little gets done. Moreover, even many of those convinced of the threat, myself included, haven't taken steps to incorporate action for sustainability into their daily or weekly routines. Hats off to those who have. For more information, see

www.tampabaypostcarbon.com

JP

On Thursday of last week, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 410-8 in favor of a divisive resolution that directs the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the words "In God We Trust" and the Pledge of Allegiance onto the walls of the Capitol Visitor Center. This resolution blatantly promotes religion and distorts the secular history of our government. Moreover, it sends a message that excludes millions of nontheistic Americans.

Please take the time to [thank the eight members of the House who stood up for the separation of church and state](#): John Conyers (D-MI 14), Donna Edwards (D-MD 04), Mazie Hirono (D-HI 02), Mike Honda (D-CA 15), Jim McDermott (D-WA 07), Ron Paul (R-TX 14), Bobby Scott (D-VA 03), Pete Stark (D-CA 13). Alternatively, you can call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and thank the members that way.

Share your favorite restaurant.

Glenn Paul wants to improve the selection of restaurants in which we have our monthly social dinners. Our main criteria for selection is:

1. Location—center county preferred
2. Cost—low to moderate accommodates everybody.
3. Room—to accommodate up to 25
4. Ambience—not too noisy at 5PM.
5. Food—good.

Contact Glenn at:

glennkayp@juno.com
or call 727-595-3347

Read Humanist Periodicals:

The Humanist, Free Inquiry, Free Mind, Humanist Perspectives, Skeptical Inquirer, Secular Humanist Bulletin, The Skeptic, Essays in Humanism, and many others.

"The cosmos is neither moral or immoral; only people are. He who would move the world must first move himself."

Edward L. Ericson,
Member & Distinguished Author

****Classifieds****

Automotive:

1997 TOYOTA CELICA CONVERTIBLE FOR SALE
Sports car looks. Drives like a dream. 5-speed stick shift. White with black top and black leather front bucket seats. 2-doors. Seats 4. Looks good. 115,700 miles. AC/AM-FM-CD. Power steering, windows, locks and mirrors. Dual airbags. Cruise control. Alloy wheels. Asking \$4500. Call Steve Brown. 727-595-4864.

Have an opinion, idea, or essay that needs to get vented? This newsletter is your space. For editorial consideration for the next issue, see Jim Peterson at humanist@ij.net

