

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, March 7th. Making Humanism a Philosophy for Everyday Life

As our world undergoes tremendous changes in its politics, economy, and the relationship between humanity and the natural world, we as a society are moving gradually, but inevitably toward a new synthesis in our attitude and thinking about life. Like every great moment in human experience, this change is no sudden entry upon the stage of history, but is an idea voiced once and yet again over the course of many thousands of years. From the writings of the first scientists, mathematicians and pre-socratic philosophers, and reverberating through the literature, insights and discoveries in our own time, the Humanist theme has accompanied the emergence of the fully developed person. But only in the last hundred years of so, has that theme been adopted explicitly in the form of organized Humanism as we find it today. The Freethought tradition is the first springboard for this organization, but other paths have also converged. Themes of empathy, sympathy, liberation and enlightenment have grown from a fierce passion for political liberty and freedom from theological oppression.

So what do we do now? On the base of such developments, how do we bring all humankind to the recognition of its own inherent freedom, and our individual potentials for creative living? **Most importantly**, how do we as an organized group in Florida meet these challenges? Lets talk about it. 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.

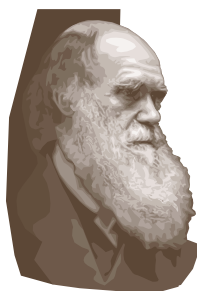
Please...

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

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

It's the Humanist thing to do!

The Charles Darwin Bicentennial 1809 to 2009



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.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.

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

**Saturday,
March 7th
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 monthly social dinner, The Moveable Feast...

Jorge's Seafood Grille

on Sunday March 22nd at 5:00PM.

This fine restaurant is located at 800 Clearwater-Largo Rd. in Largo about one mile north of W. Bay [Rt 686].

Sunset special dinners are in the \$11-13 range and include chicken, ribs and beef as well as seafood. Dessert is included with sunset specials.

Contact Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email at kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com for reservations by Saturday March 21st.

Laugh Lines A Child's Garden of Love

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too."

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth."

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."

"Love is when my mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay."

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

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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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.

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

Five Tasks for the Ethical Naturalist

[HOME](#)

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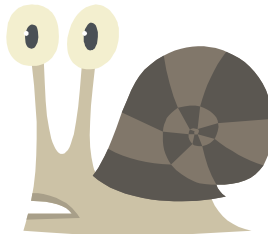
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1. **Know who you are.** It can take a lifetime of persistent investigation to gain an approximate notion of what it means to be a human being; even longer to fully unravel the mystery of who you are. But it's worth the effort.
2. **Find yourself in the lives of others.** We did not arrive in the world fully formed. We become who we are by slowly accreting and integrating bits and pieces of other people's lives. Consequently, we are always at home, always discovering and recognizing the traces of others within our selves.
3. **Find your role in the enterprise of inventing humanity.** We are necessarily social beings, dependant on the mechanisms of culture, history, and political economy that in large measure are the foundation of our identity. But nothing lasts. Change is the currency of an authentic life and the evidence of our existence.
4. **Find your niche in the living world.** We are imbedded in a web of dependency on the activity of living organisms we scarcely consider in the course of everyday life. Embrace the thought that, I am a community of bioplasms that support the neural activity I call, "me". After a certain time, that assemblage will disintegrate, releasing the components of those cells to the ocean of life from which they were so briefly borrowed.
5. **Find yourself in the universe.** Though our planet may be a grain of sand on the shoreline of the cosmos, you are unique, and of greater value than greatest of galaxies. For all the immensity and power of the visible physical universe, it lacks the awareness, creativity, purpose and love that only we, it's tiny human* component, can supply. JP

*Used here to identify the class of sentient beings.

Socrates has very adequately summed up the forgoing with just two words, "Know your self!"

SNAILS

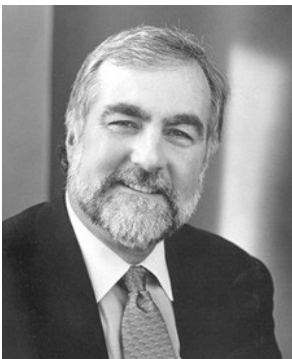


It's All Relative

A snail was mugged by two turtles. When the police asked him what happened, he said, "I don't know. It all happened so fast."

Another Snail Misadventure

There's a knock on the door; but when the woman answers it, there's only a snail. She picks it up and throws it across the yard. Two weeks later, there's another knock on the door. The woman answers the door and there's the snail again. The snail says: "What was that all about?"



Dr. William Shultz

William F. Shultz to speak in Sarasota On March 1st

The New York Review of Books said of Dr. Schulz, "William Schulz has done more than anyone in the American human rights movement to make human rights issues known in the United States". Tickets are available at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 3975 Fruitville Road in Sarasota. They are \$20, There will be a reception before the 7 p.m. lecture, starting at 6 p.m. Contact: Rick Sandler rick@insgrp.com for details.

"Ethical Humanism is primarily an attitude about human beings, their worth, and the significance of their lives. It is concerned with the nature and quality of living; the character and creativity of our relationships. Because of this concern, humanism spontaneously flowers into a spiritual movement in its own right."

Edward L. Ericson