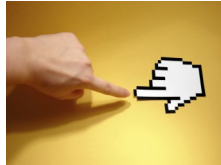


# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

*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](http://www.metrodirect.net/humanist)



**Dave Dockery,**  
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.

## Living In a Connected World



We now live in a world where liberated information flows freely over the cognitive landscape as from a melting glacier where it was once sequestered, available only to the most determined explorers. But what powerful search engines have done for information, a new internet function will do to change the way we share our lives with others. It is the most powerful tool **ever** available to change our world: Social Media. It has already begun to transform our lives, but "you ain't seen nuttin' yet!" Paradigms are shifting rapidly. An awareness of these changes will help us prepare for and understand what lies in the road ahead.

*Dave Dockery* has been President of the 1,100 member Tampa Bay Computer Society for almost 10 years. He has hosted computer and technology oriented shows on both local radio and television. He is also a "Kindness Coordinator" for Pinellas County – sponsoring events that promote "Random Acts of Kindness". He speaks frequently on computers, the Internet, paradigm shifts, mind mapping, and more. Dave has been a member of the Humanist society for several months now. This will be his "get acquainted" talk.

Volume 18 No. 9  
September, 2009



**The Board  
of Directors  
will meet before  
our regular  
meeting to  
discuss current  
issues, make  
plans, and solve  
all problems.**

**1:00 pm on  
Saturday, 9-5-09**

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

**Saturday  
Sept. 5th  
2:00 PM**

**Clearwater East  
Library  
2251 Drew St.  
Clearwater**

Following our meeting, many of us will dine together at the

**Farmer Boy  
Restaurant**  
at 2129 Drew St. just 2 blks west of Library.

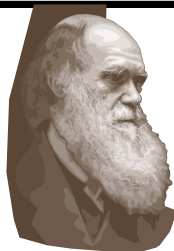
Don't Forget...

**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](http://www.evolvetampa.com) . JP

### Our New Website

We have put up a new site with hopefully more utility than the previous version. All newsletters from the past two years are there, as well as pictures of some of us. (We need more!) See the calendars and maps. We can be found at: <http://suncoasthumanist.com>



*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 September is at:**

## Greek Isles

located at 1501 Clearwater-Largo Rd in Largo on September 20th at 5:00PM.  
They offer a wide array of dinner specials featuring Greek food as well as pork, chicken, seafood, etc. - many priced under \$10.00.  
Please make reservations with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or email [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com) by Saturday September 19th.

**To confirm your reservation, call or write Glenn Paul at [kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com), or call 727-595-3347 by Saturday, September 19th.**

## Laugh Lines You know, there's some thing so very odd about these headlines...

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

War Dims Hope for Peace

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Thanks to *Connie Purdum*

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

### Board of Directors

**Meets** Sept., December, April

*Don (Ace) Acenbrack*  
*Jim Butler*  
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*Lucille Odeneal (Emeritus)*  
*Glenn Paul Treasurer*  
*Jim Peterson, President*

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~

**Glenn Paul Publisher.**  
**Jim Peterson, Editor**

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

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 -\$25. **New! 2009 only**
- ☞ Reg. Couple -\$30.
- ☞ Life -\$200.
- ☞ life Couple -\$250.
- ☞ Limited income -\$10.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**

## Why Secular Activism?

Secularism is a vibrant movement, and there have already been successes. The newly formed Secular Coalition for America has brought the first lobbyist to Washington specifically representing the interests Secular Americans. Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA) has "come out" as the first openly nontheistic congressman in American history.

The American Humanist Association initiated the first national advertising campaign promoting the notion of secular humanist identity, and now numerous groups around the country are doing the same. We now have Camp Quest, a camp for children of nonreligious families, and we have education centers, legal centers, charities, student groups through the Secular Student Alliance, and local groups all around the country, all affirming the notion of secular identity.

The movement was assisted somewhat in recent years by a series of bestselling books debunking religion, and now awaits an important book to be released by HarperCollins this fall from Harvard Humanist Chaplain Greg Epstein, *Good Without God - What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe*, that promises to educate the public about the positive aspects of the humanist lifestance. Clearly, Secular Americans are emerging, and we have no intention of going back to the closet.

Secular Americans don't for a moment think that the election of Obama has eliminated the danger of the religious right. Critical thinking and rational public policy will not be secure until secular humanists have firmly established themselves as a recognized and respected demographic category, seen by the public, the press, and the government as being worthy of a seat at the table in the American public dialogue. Obviously, there is much work to be done and this is no time for complacency.

*David Niose*

*(David Niose is an attorney and the president of the American Humanist Association. This column was originally published on July 21, 2009 in [Open Salon](#) and is available in full at the AHA website: <http://americanhumanist.org/HNN>)*

**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 - even if not from a distinctly Humanist perspective.**

**Let me know if you would like to recommend a person or organization. Call Jim at (813) 531-8138 or E-mail me at [humanist@ij.net](mailto:humanist@ij.net)**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:humanist@ij.net)

