

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

A brief History of Disbelief

Episode 2: Noughts & Crosses

Volume 16 No. 8

August, 2007

Join the Humanist Society and become rich in the abilities & appreciation that make life worthwhile.

See page 2 and send your dues to Hal East.

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,
August 4th
2:00 PM

Clearwater East
Library
2251 Drew St.
Clearwater



Democracy for America

The place of Religion and the Community

President Jim Peterson was a panelist in a three part television discussion on *Democracy For America, Religion and the Community*, which will be airing this week and continue until September 30, 2007.

While he remains optimistic that he may have contributed something of value to the proceedings, it is worth noting that the county commissioners decided to shut down operations of Pinellas Access immediately after his appearance.

The show airs three times a week on Tuesday 9:00 pm., Friday 4:30 pm and Saturday 2:30 pm on Bright House (96) or Knology (21). You may also watch it on line streaming at those times at: www.accesspinellas.org.



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!



A Film by *Jonathan Miller*

For this month's discussion, we will see a one hour video presentation of this breakthrough television program. Now you may be asking; where's the first episode of the series? That was shown on Saturday July 21st in Tampa at the CFI center. We will repeat that showing later, and of course, we will also show the third and final episode as well. But for this presentation, we will see:

Part II Noughts and Crosses

With the domination of Christianity from 500 AD, Jonathan Miller wonders how disbelief began to re-emerge in the 15th and 16th centuries. He discovers that division within the Church played a more powerful role than the scientific discoveries of the period. He also visits Paris, the home of the 18th century atheist, Baron D'Holbach, and shows how politically dangerous it was to undermine the religious faith of the masses. He finds that atheist, Thomas Paine, a prime architect of the American republic, was first honored by a grateful nation, than repudiated by its religious reactionaries.

About Dr. Miller...

A fully accredited physician and neuropsychologist, a prolific author and lecturer..." wrote *The New York Times*, "[Jonathan Miller] knows more than a little about everything. He combines qualities that shouldn't be contained in one person: he is both a performer and a thinker."

A legendary theater and opera director, Miller first gained international prominence with *Beyond the Fringe*, the 1960 play (written and performed with Peter Cook, Dudley Moore and Alan Bennett) that redefined the boundaries of comedy — launching a lunatic legacy that has stretched from *Monty Python* to *Saturday Night Live*.



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

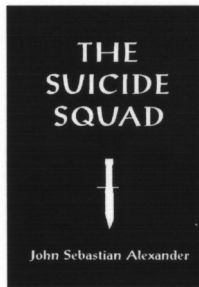
The Moveable Feast ...

Our August social dinner will be held at

the pepper mill restaurant

on Sunday August 19th, at 5:00PM. This fine restaurant is located at 1575 Ft. Harrison South in Clearwater and has a wide array of offerings starting at \$10 to \$17 for early bird dining. See peppermillofclearwater.com for more details.

Please make reservations with Glenn at 727-595-3347 or click [here](#) to E-mail him before Saturday, July 21st.



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 and treasurer is recovering at home Give him and **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) 787-1984

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

Laugh Lines... Keep 'em Guessing

With a serious face, order a Diet Water whenever you go out to eat.

Specify that your drive-through order is, "To Go."

Sing along at the Opera

Go to a Poetry Recital and ask why the Poems don't rhyme

Put mosquito netting around your work Area and play tropical sounds all day.

Five days in advance, tell your friends you can't attend their party because you're not in the mood.

When the money comes out of the ATM, scream "I won!, I won!"

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) 283-1645

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

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

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E-Mail us at:

sunhum@metrodirect.net

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

~ Join ~

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast.

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Send to: **Hal East, Treasurer**
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