



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

## Protecting "Marriage"

This November, Floridians will vote on Amendment 2, the so-called "marriage protection" amendment. Supporters of Amendment 2 present it to voters as a "gay marriage ban." In reality, this amendment prohibits the state of Florida from recognizing any other relationship that is not marriage, which means it could actually take away existing rights and benefits from millions of unmarried Floridians – both gay and straight.

If this amendment passes, unmarried Floridians in committed relationships - especially seniors who live together but are unmarried by choice – could lose their shared health insurance benefits and be barred from visiting each other in the hospital during emergency medical situations.

The proponents of Amendment 2 are using the bait and switch message of "gay marriage" as a red herring to inform voters of one very important fact: Florida already has four laws on the books that ban same sex marriage. If this amendment fails, "gay marriage" will still be illegal in Florida.

Floridians have far more important things to worry about. Join the Tampa Tribune and nearly one dozen prominent newspapers in Florida by saying No to Amendment 2. **Eddie Ayala for R&B**

We will have a speaker from the organization, **Red & Blue** to address this issue. Our condolences are extended to **Karen Doering** who will be unable to lead us because of a death in her family.

### Area Humanists Host Statewide Conference

SARASOTA (March 17, 2008) – Humanists and fellow progressives who value freedom, equality, social justice and rational thought will convene from around Florida at the Sarasota Hotel and Marina from **May 9 through 11**. Keynote speaker *David Sloan Wilson* will introduce the conference theme, "Evolving Humanism: An Agenda for the Future."

Wilson, an evolutionary biologist from the State University of New York, Binghamton, also publishes across disciplines as diverse as anthropology and philosophy. Regardless of subject area, one of his topics remains central: Selfishness may benefit an individual struggling to survive, but a high standard of morality – instead of selfishness – benefits everyone.

Joining Wilson on the conference program are *Alan Charney*, program director for USAction who will discuss how we can advance a progressive agenda after the 2008 election; *Alan B. Grindal*, a frequently celebrated Sarasota neurosurgeon who will address facets of aging and consciousness on the brain; and *Ronald A. Lindsay*, Legal Director for the Center for Inquiry who will talk about the case he's helping litigate against the state of Florida for providing tax dollars to religious organizations working with former inmates.

*Nadine Smith*, of Equality Florida, will be honored at a dinner banquet May 10 as the Humanists of Florida Association's Humanist of the Year. To learn more, visit [www.floridahumanist.org](http://www.floridahumanist.org) or email [flahumanists@gmail.com](mailto:flahumanists@gmail.com). Contact: *Gin Kohl Lieberman* [vkohl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:vkohl@tampabay.rr.com) (813) 263 – 0715



### Don't Forget... Religious Extremists dominate Legislature

## 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, box, or two.** It's the Humanist thing to do!

While major problems of tax equity, funding essential educational and medical programs, addressing crucial environmental measures, and ensuring the financial solvency of the state have received scant attention, the legislators in this session have addressed –with some fervor– getting rid of church/state separation in the constitution, making gay marriage illegal, keeping evolution out of the schools, allowing guns in the workplace, and providing Christian license plates, among other triumphs. They are also helping to limit the population influx by simply making it too embarrassing to live here.

Fortunately, the session will be over soon before too much more progress can be made. JP

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**Next Month, be sure to come by for the Annual,**

### Hyde Park Potpourri!

Tell us what you have learned, or ask a question you long wanted answered.

### Elections

will take place at this month's meeting. We meet only three times a year, and we need participation by as many people as can commit to this small amount of time. Please Run!

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

**Saturday,  
May  
3rd  
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.

