



# 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)

**Our Program for Saturday, September 6th...**

## Philosopher, **Bill Hall** will examine the Phenomenon of *Cognitive Illusions*

*An exploration of recent discoveries in cognitive science that reveal how our brains evolved certain cognitive shortcuts that lead us to make mistakes of reasoning that affect many areas of our lives.*

Bill Hall is a philosopher specializing in the philosophy of science, the philosophy of religion, and critical thinking. He has taught in the communications department of St. Petersburg College for the past nineteen years. Bill is a member of The Center For Inquiry (CFI) and serves on the executive council of The Tampa Bay Skeptics. He is also active in the online freethought community and runs the Yahoo! Groups Skeptics/Humanists discussion list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/skepticshumanists/>. His hobbies include playing chess, collecting and solving brainteaser puzzles, studying the magical arts, and confounding Christian apologists.

## Remember Hal East

### Hal East Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service held in honor Hal's life, at the UU Clearwater, Octagon followed by a light lunch to be served in the social hall on Saturday, September 6th at 11:00 a.m. Go to the memorial first, then come to the meeting at 2.

Hal was a founder of our Humanist Society back in 1987. He is well remembered now for being the thoughtful, kind, generous, and altogether decent person he was. He embodied in these traits and others, the essence of the Humanist movement realized in personal terms.

We express our profound condolences to Lucille and our empathy for her and the family in the stressful period of his recent illness.



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

**We need your help** to keep humanist issues in the forefront of politicians' minds With candidates flaunting their religious credentials, we need to make it impossible for them to ignore non-religious Americans. Write your elected officials and ask for answers to these important questions:

1. Is America a Christian nation and, if so, in what sense?
2. How does religious liberty apply to atheists and agnostics?
3. Should religions that endorse candidates lose their tax-exempt status?
4. Is religion the only source of moral values?

The number of Americans who don't hold a traditional view of God is growing. Let's make that clear to our leaders. The more of us who ask these questions, the more they will realize that we are a significant constituency.

Our voices matter, and it's time to make them heard. Demand that your leaders keep us in mind by **writing** to them today. If you get an interesting response, let me know Jim P.

Volume 17 No. 9

September, 2008

**Next Month,**  
Famed attorney,  
**Karen Doering**  
on  
**Human Rights**

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

**Saturday,  
September  
6th  
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

### The Moveable Feast...

**Our September social dinner will be held at**

## The Pub Restaurant

located at 20025 Gulf Blvd on September 21st at 5:00PM. The Pub has a wide range of food incl salads and sandwiches with a waterfront view. Their early bird dinner specials are priced in the \$12 range. The restaurant is located about halfway between where Park Blvd and Walsingham Rd [Rt 688] intersect with Gulf Blvd.

Please reserve with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or [glennkayp@juno.com](mailto:glennkayp@juno.com) by Saturday September 20th.

### Sick Bay

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**

Call **(813) 531-8138** for changes to this list.

JP

## Laugh Lines Signs of Wit on planet Earth

### Some 2008 HEADLINES Are these writers serious?

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges  
 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 Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide  
 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  
 And the winner is....  
 Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

.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

### Board of Directors

**Meets** Sept., December, April

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

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