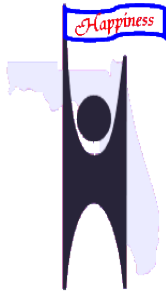


The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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



What Does It Mean to Be a Naturalist?

Volume 17 No. 2

February, 2008

DON'T FORGET!

This is Dues time for Humanist Society members.

See the rate on the back and send in yours today. While you're at it, let us know of any suggestions about subjects you would like to see us try, and/or new venues for our gustatory and aesthetic exercises.

Hal East

Lucille says It would be nice if any one could call, or stop by for a short visit Hal is at:

Encore Senior Care Village

Harold East, Unit 7, Room
707 620 Belleair Rd
Clearwater, FL 33756

727 467-9464 (ask for Unit 7) or
727 743-1063 (Hal's cell phone)
It may take him a few minutes to answer, but he usually gets the call.



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!

Professor Bill Hall will discuss the surprising origins of philosophical naturalism, delineate what naturalism entails, and discuss Charles Darwin, whose birthday we celebrate on the 12th of February, as an exemplar of a methodological naturalist.

Characteristic of the Humanist movement is an attempt to understand our humanity through the methods of science. Science places us in the context of the material world and by achieving an ever more accurate knowledge of ourselves within that world, enables us to develop our freedom and improve our social life. There is a distrust of metaphysics, intuition, and revelation; culturally based belief systems not subject to empirical testing.

Besides this confidence in a method, humanistic naturalists have an organic perspective on humanity and nature. We are of nature and not apart from it. Dualisms that separate in kind or substance, mind and body, mental and physical, and humanity and nature are rejected; reality is nature. Rather than drawing an arbitrary line between nature and ourselves, we strive to see the continuity.

This continuity moves from physical processes to the biological to the intellectual. Our mental processes are organically based, and in turn our biological processes result from the physical nature of the cosmos.

Humanistic naturalists focus on humanity, putting nature into our perspective, not making our perspective that of nature. They essentially view human beings pragmatically.

The stress is on discovering new freedoms, improving self-understanding and the social and material conditions of human life. The scientific method provides the means for us to see ourselves as we truly are, without the distortions of delusional paradigms. JP

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.

Join us in March to hear Psychologist, and member, **Lynda Gurvitz** discuss the proposition that religious behavior is a product of our genetic makeup.

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,
February
2nd
2:00 PM

Clearwater East
Library
2251 Drew St.
Clearwater

