

# 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)

## Good bye, Hal



Founding member Harold (Hal) East has died. He was an active member and supporter of the Humanist movement, and served not only as our founder, but with his gracious wife Lucille served as treasurer and publisher of this newsletter. He had a long career in the Navy as an electronics technician, a job made more notable by his presence during the 1941 Japanese bombardment of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, precipitating the entry of the US into the second world war. Hal was always friendly and helpful, always willing to lend a hand, gentle, but sensitive to the foibles and foolishness of popular beliefs and opinion and willing to criticize and oppose them when the need arose. He will be remembered in the hearts of all of us as the kind of person who makes humanism a living movement. We express our profound condolences to Lucille and his family.

Volume 17 No. 8  
August, 2008

**Next Month,  
Coming...  
In September...**

### Bill Hall

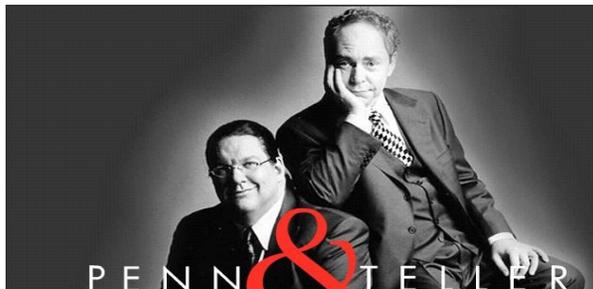
Professor of  
Philosophy at the  
Clearwater campus  
of St. Petersburg  
College. Sept. 6th

## Our Program for Saturday , August 2nd...

We will continue with our summer series on the skeptical outlook. We will examine such propositions as whether the . By video, *Penn* and *Teller* will amuse, entertain, and lampoon in their own provocative style, analyzing such questions as who is really "Holier than thou," and exactly who is "Big Brother" watching anyway? They take on

some of our least examined social mores as well as some all-too-common cognitive dysfunctions.

It is anticipated that the video presentations will alternate with actual live thinking and commentary by members as we digest and ruminate upon the wisdom that has been disclosed.



**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!

### Wafergate

Webster Cook is a student at the University of Central Florida in Orlando who took a consecrated communion wafer uneaten from a June Catholic service at the university. Despite being physically accosted by some of the congregation, Cook successfully smuggled the wafer from the service and held it hostage for a time. Cook was using the opportunity to draw attention to the fact that state monies are used to support religious activities in a university system with explicit prohibition of such use of funds. In fact, the "church" where Webster snagged the heavenly host was in [room 316 of the UCF Student Union](#) (yes, on-campus), not even in the Catholic Campus Ministries center. For this he has been sanctioned by the University senate and received other threats. More later..

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

**Saturday,  
August 2nd  
2:00 PM**

**Clearwater East  
Library**

**- Room "B" -  
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 August social dinner will be held at**

# **Tucsons**

**On Sunday, August 17th at 5:00 pm**

Tex-Mex cuisine on a budget. We've been here before. The restaurant is located at 13563 Icot Blvd. in Clearwater, just off Ulmerton Rd.

Please make reservations with Jim per e-mail reply ([humanist@ij.net](mailto:humanist@ij.net)), or call him at (813) 531-8138 by Saturday, August 16th.

### **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

Birds of a feather flock together and crap on your car.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

He who hesitates is probably right.

If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.....

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

.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

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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.**

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