

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

Volume 18 No. 7

July, 2009

THE SOCIAL DINNER TAKES OVER!

Well, for this month, anyway.

Join us at Tucson's for some great food and stimulating conversation.
See page two for location and reservations. And...
To top it off, we have a special guest speaker!

Since the Library is closed for the 4th, and a room is not available until the 18th, we decided to combine the meeting with our regular social dinner at 5 pm at Tucson's Restaurant on July 12th.



Another Humanist Billboard goes up in Phoenix, Arizona.

Why can't we do likewise?

Our special speaker: **Rick O'Keefe**, writer, wit, raconteur, dilettante, master of the hearty handclasp and... Director of the **Center For Inquiry** in Tampa. Rick will bring us up to date on the plans and prospects of CFI. But because he is droll and amusing, this will be no dry exercise. Tampabay has only a small number of free thought organizations, and CFI plays a leading role in keeping the wheels turning.



Although recent research suggests that the Alliance of Secular Humanist Societies arm of CFI has apparently gone on hiatus for a while, we have enthusiastically cooperated with CFI on a number of common projects to keep Humanism on the front burner in our area.

Rick keeps the lights burning, and has been actively involved in keeping secular humanism, Skepticism, and the spirit of inquiry alive in the bay area. What he has to say therefore, will be very meaningful to us.

We are sorry to Note that our member, **Rita Berry** has died on June 15th of this year after a long illness. She and member, Frank Pahl were inseparable companions for many years. She was always an avid and interested participant in many Humanist activities.

Please join us for a Sumptuous feast & free and open discussion.

Sunday, July 12th 5:00 PM

At the Tucson Restaurant.

See page 2 for details

Don't Forget...

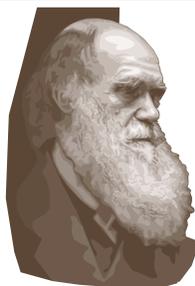
Tampa Bay Harvest

Please...

Bring as many boxed and canned food items as you can to this meeting.

With the important help of **Glenn Paul** and **Tampa bay Harvest**, we can do our part to help relieve significant human suffering.

It's the Humanist thing to do!



The Darwin Bicentennial and the Year of Science

Find out what activities are planned for this Year of Science in our area.

www.evolvetampa.com . JP

The Philo Café

For those of you living in Tampa, Fridays at 6:30 pm at the [Carrollwood Cultural Center](#) at 4537 Lowell Road, in Tampa is a great way to spend 2 hours on issues of philosophical importance. Group selects topics.



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

**Our monthly social dinner,
The Moveable Feast for June 15 at:**

Tucsons

13563 Icot Boulevard, Clearwater, FL 33760

on Sunday **July 12th at 5:00PM.**

**For the first time ever, this will be a
combination Meeting and Dinner.**

More fun than a barrel of Somnambulists!

**The Mesa room has been designated to contain
our ruminations.**

Kindly reply with your reservations by July 11th to Glenn Paul at: kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com by the 10th, or call (727) 595-3347

Laugh Lines

A child's Garden of Science Exam Answers

- Q: Name the four seasons.
A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.
- Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.
A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.
- Q: How is dew formed?
A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.
- Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?
A: Keep it in the cow.
- Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?
A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.
- Q: What are steroids?
A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs...
- Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.
A: Premature death.
- Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g., abdomen)
A: The body is consisted into three parts -- the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels A, E, I, O, and U.
- Q: What is the fibula?
A: A small lie.

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:
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Join us in our effort to ignite critical thinking, and embrace reason, & compassion in life.

~ Join ~

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33785-3010

MEDICAL TEXTBOOKS NEEDED TO STOP TALIBAN DESTRUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN

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When the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in 1996 following a long and bloody civil war, they immediately embarked on a program to implement their vision of a total Islamic theocracy. The repressive regime that they created, infamous worldwide for its systematic human rights violations, complete denial of independence and even personhood to women, violent religious enforcement squads, and destruction of ancient artwork and historic artifacts, took this systemized repression into every corner of Afghan life.

Regarding any depiction of the human form to be blasphemous for representing an image that could be worshiped, the Taliban also set out to destroy all medical textbooks. Medical instructors were not even allowed to draw the human form in class.

The fallout from this damaging policy remains with medical students and doctors in Afghanistan to this day. With Internet access scarce, students and doctors have difficulty finding reference works to consult. This only exacerbates the shortage of medical resources in Afghanistan. Already suffering from continuous war, extreme topography, and disease outbreaks, Afghanistan's medical infrastructure is in dire need of help.

You can help. A longtime member of the **American Humanist Association** has an acquaintance who re-enlisted to serve in the US Army in Afghanistan. Her job will be to train Afghan medical personnel. She will accept donations of medical textbooks from the United States, and she will ensure that they get into the hands of people that need them.

If members of the American Humanist Association could send just one medical book of any kind, old or new, it will make a tremendous difference. This is a chance to put those used medical textbooks and references that you have sitting on your shelf back to work.

Please send them to American Humanist Association members David and Sandra Clapsaddle, who will ensure that they are sent to Afghanistan and will cover all shipping charges. Please use the following address:

David and Sandra Clapsaddle
5830 Toofer Winds Court
Las Vegas, NV 89131

The road to rebuilding Afghanistan's war torn medical infrastructure is long and arduous. We can help piece it back together, one textbook at a time.



Gore Vidal

Gore Vidal accepts the Honorary presidency of the AHA. He occupies the position formerly held by Kurt Vonnegut and before him, Isaac Asimov. He joins the pantheon of distinguished American writers who have been in the leadership of the AHA since its inception.

“ In the long run governmental favoritism vitiates the religious spirit itself. Where in the Western world is organized religion stronger than in the United States where the church is a take-your-choice affair? Where is it weaker than in Europe where sophisticated secularists joke that they have been "inoculated" for life against religion by compulsory religious indoctrination in state schools? Preserving the secular character of government and the public school is the surest guarantee that religion in America will remain free, vital, uncorrupted by political power, and independent of state manipulation.”

Edward L. Ericson,
Member & Distinguished Author

Randigram
e-bulletin of the

James Randi Educational Foundation

Another TAM (The Amazing Meeting) is scheduled for Las Vegas July 9th to 12th. Speakers: Phil Plait, James Randi, Bill Prady of "The Big Bang Theory," Adam Savage of "Mythbusters," Joe Nickell, Michael Shermer, Skeptics' Guide to the Universe, and many more. There's also a medical conference, 4 stellar workshops, shows and a vaccination fair. There is still room...

Have an opinion, idea, or essay that needs to get vented? This newsletter is your space. For editorial consideration for the next issue, see Jim Peterson at humanist@ij.net