

# 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)

## Saving Democracy

A Do-it –yourself primer

Steven Hill, says that American democracy has been working about as well as the levees around New Orleans. Hill, who is author of *10 Steps to Repair American Democracy* and director of the New America Foundation's Political Reform program, establishes that American democracy is rooted in outdated methods and practices, from voting equipment to the way we elect the President and Congress. He outlines ways for overhauling and reinvigorating our political system and presents a comprehensive vision for how American democracy could work, and the reforms that will take use there -- from a more robust election administration regime to a national election holiday to free airtime for candidates to direct election of the President, term limits for Supreme Court justices, media reform, campaign finance reform, instant runoff voting, universal voter registration, and the end of winner take-all elections. We will use this book as a source for drawing out some leading aspects of our discussion. We are also grateful to have the assistance of *Rebecca Steel* of our local ACLU region to examine the legal context.

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**Join the Humanist Society and become rich in the abilities & appreciation that make life worthwhile.**

See page 2 and send your dues to Hal East.

### 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.

### Rebecca Steele

Regional Director, ACLU

REBECCA HARRISON STEELE is the Director of the ACLU of Florida's West Central Florida regional office. She came to the ACLU from private law practice with her own law firm, which she formed after working as an attorney with the Trenam, Kemker and Holland & Knight law firms. Ms. Steele is an AV-rated lawyer and an experienced appellate attorney who clerked for the Honorable Charles R. Wilson for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. She received her law degree, magna cum laude, from the Stetson University College of Law, where she was an articles and symposium editor for the Stetson Law Review. Ms. Steele has served as an adjunct professor at Stetson University College of Law, and writes and speaks frequently on civil rights issues. Before becoming a lawyer, Ms. Steele was a stage director and an adjunct professor of theater at the University of South Florida and the University of Tampa. She is a past president of the Board of Directors for the community radio station WMNF-FM, and is also a past president of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers. Currently she serves on the board of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers and the Trial Lawyers Section of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. Other past bar involvement: Co-Chair of the Employee Benefits Committee of The Florida Bar Section of Labor and Employment Law; Co-Chair of the Ethics Subcommittee of the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law Employee Benefits Committee (including serving as a contributing author for the BNA treatise, Employee Benefits). Honors are listings in the 2006 & 2007 Florida Trend "Legal Elite" as well as the 2006 Florida Super Lawyers.



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!

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

**Saturday, October 6th  
2:00 PM**

**Clearwater East Library  
2251 Drew St.  
Clearwater**



*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

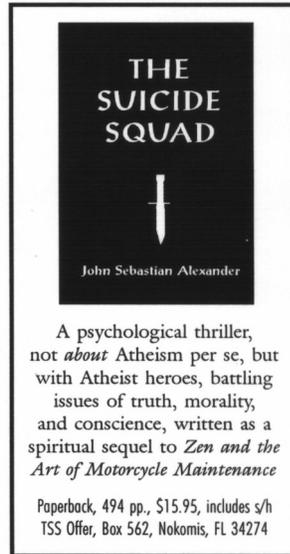
### **The Moveable Feast ...**

Our October social dinner will be held at

## **SAVORY RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA**

on Sunday October 21st at 5:00PM. This restaurant is located at 12881 Walsingham Rd. where Ulmerton meets Walsingham in a small shopping center on the north side. Reasonably priced complete meals plus many choices of soups, salads, sandwiches, omelettes and Italian fare are available.

Please make reservations with Glenn at 727-595-3347 or click [here](#) to E-mail him before Saturday, October 20th.



A psychological thriller, not about Atheism per se, but with Atheist heroes, battling issues of truth, morality, and conscience, written as a spiritual sequel to *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*

Paperback, 494 pp., \$15.95, includes s/h  
TSS Offer, Box 562, Nokomis, FL 34274

### **Sick Bay...**

**Hal East**, our founder and treasurer is recovering at home Give him and **Lucille** a call at (727) 738-0912.

**Miriam & Sidney Goetz** are both dealing with Health problems. They are staying close to their new home in Palm Harbor, and would appreciate hearing from their friends.

Call (727) 787-1984

**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

## **Laugh Lines... Emergency?**

**Dispatcher: 9-1-1**

**Caller: Yeah, I'm having trouble breathing. I'm all out of breath. Darn....I think I'm going to pass out.**

**Dispatcher: Sir, where are you calling from?**

**Caller: I'm at a pay phone. North and Foster.**

**Dispatcher: ! Sir, an ambulance is on the way. Are you an asthmatic?**

**Caller: No**

**Dispatcher: What were you doing before you started having trouble breathing?**

**Caller: Running from the Police.**

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) 283-1645**

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF THE SUNCOAST

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc. the Association of Secular Humanist Societies

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*Join us in our effort to ignite critical thinking, and restore reason, & genuine compassion to American life.*

*~ Join ~*

*The Humanist Society of the Suncoast.*

☞ Trial -3 month- free news  
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*(Privacy respected)*

**Send to: Hal East, Treasurer**  
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