



# 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 [CSH](#). Find us at [www.metrodirect.net/humanist](http://www.metrodirect.net/humanist)

Our Program for November 7th.

## Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

The foundation on which Civilization & Humanism is built.

With **Nigel Watson** of the Pinellas Chapter of the ACLU



### Becoming Human

A new Nova Series examines the question of human origins, and how we developed as a species. The first program airs on November 3rd.

### We join the Tampa Bay coalition of Reason

Recently a meeting was held at CFI with leaders of major groups present to institute the formation of a chapter of COR. The object is to acquaint the public with the free-thought movement through a common media campaign.

We will keep you posted on plans as they develop.



For over eighty years, the American Civil Liberties Union has organized a stout defense of our constitution and its guarantees of civil liberty. During all this time it has neither sought nor received government approval.

Rather, it is an organization of citizens seeking to ensure the public good and the stability of our democratic institutions through judicial and legislative relief from the attempts of the few to subvert the inherent rights of the many in order to secure cultural or political hegemony in the nation.

Because of the dynamic nature of the political enterprise, this is an ongoing process; for as long as people question (as they should) every aspect of governance. The purpose of the constitution and it's accompanying bill of rights is solely to ensure the order and democratic nature of change. The ACLU and similar organizations are the guardians of this constitution. It both defends and explains it in order to popularize it in the public understanding, so that we may continue to resist the enthusiasms of momentary extremism, and the "madness of crowds."

Ironically, though the ACLU has received vast support from the liberal part of the spectrum, it is very much a conservative institution. But only in the best, most accurate sense of that word.

It is especially pleasing to report that four of our members currently serve on the Pinellas County board: Glenn Paul, Jerry Moore, Bob Collette, and Jim Peterson.

**Nigel Watson**, is a droll, witty, engaging personality, highly educated in matters of fact and opinion, who will well enrich the time we have.

Volume 18 No. 11

November, 2009

**At our last board meeting, we agreed to co-sponsor to 2010 Annual conference.**



The Humanists  
of  
Florida  
Association

in collaboration with  
**AHA & CFI**  
announces

*the first-ever, all-inclusive*  
**Humanist & Freethought  
Conference**

April 30 - May 2, 2010  
Sarasota, FL

[info@FloridaHumanist.org](mailto:info@FloridaHumanist.org)

**Please join us  
for a free and  
open  
discussion.**

**Saturday  
Nov. 7th  
2:00 PM**

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

Following our meeting, many of us will dine together at the

**Farmer Boy  
Restaurant**  
at 2129 Drew St. just 2  
blks west of Library.

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.



### 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](http://www.evolvetampa.com) . JP

### Our New Website

We have put up a new site with hopefully more utility than the previous version. All newsletters from the past two years are there, as well as pictures of some of us. (We need more!) See the calendars and maps. We can be found at: <http://suncoasthumanist.com>



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 November is at:

## Thai Bay restaurant

on Sunday November 22nd at 5:00PM.  
This restaurant is located  
at 1300 East Bay Dr. in Largo and features  
many Asian style dinners under \$10.00.

Please make your reservations by Saturday Nov. 21st  
with Glenn at **727-595-3347** or email reply at  
[kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpaul29@tampabay.rr.com) Hope to see you there on  
the 22nd.

## Laugh Lines A baker's dozen of neologistic redefinitions for you...

1. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
4. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
5. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people which stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
7. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
8. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
9. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
10. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
11. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bumper.
12. Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
13. Glibido: All talk and no action.

Is something missing here?

Thanks to Steve Brown

## 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

*Don (Ace) Acenbrack*  
*Jim Butler*  
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*Jim Peterson, President*

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

**Glenn Paul Publisher.**  
**Jim Peterson, Editor**

Have an Idea, opinion or  
essay you want to share?

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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(Privacy respected)

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

## Plan to attend our HumanLight Event this December!



How often do you get a chance to have a positive impact on the world by partying? Well, when you celebrate Human Light, a December holiday for Humanists, you get a chance to enjoy, entertain, educate, and enlighten.

Human Light was first celebrated in 2001. It has been celebrated in dozens of locations across the U.S. and has gained the attention of the national media, but many Humanists still don't know about it. See the video link below for the story of this new holiday. Please take a few minutes to view it. After you do, we hope that you will start thinking about attending our annual Human Light celebration this year. The holiday will be celebrated on or around December 23rd. Watch this newsletter for more details later.

Check out the new video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsiYANxesTo>

You can learn more about Human Light by visiting the website at:

[www.humanlight.org](http://www.humanlight.org)

[HOME](#)

Page:

[\[1\]](#)

[\[2\]](#)

**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 - even if not from a distinctly Humanist perspective.**

Let me know if you would like to recommend a person or organization.

Call Jim at (813) 531-8138 or E-mail me at [humanist@ij.net](mailto:humanist@ij.net)

**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: [jamestp@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jamestp@suncoasthumanist.com)

### Share your favorite restaurant.

Glenn Paul wants to improve the selection of restaurants in which we have our monthly social dinners. Our main criteria for selection is:

1. Location—center county preferred
2. Cost—low to moderate accommodates everybody.
3. Room—to accommodate up to 25
4. Ambience—not too noisy at 5PM.
5. Food—good.

Contact Glenn at:

[glennkayp@juno.com](mailto:glennkayp@juno.com)  
or call 727-595-3347

### Read Humanist Periodicals:

The Humanist, Free Inquiry, Free Mind, Humanist Perspectives, Skeptical Inquirer, Secular Humanist Bulletin, The Skeptic, Essays in Humanism, and many others.

### **\*\*Classifieds\*\***

#### **Automotive:**

1997 TOYOTA CELICA CONVERTIBLE Sports car looks. Drives like a dream. 5-speed stick shift. White with black top only 115,700 miles. Alloy wheels. Asking \$4500. Call Steve Brown. 727.525-3487

### *Humanist Quotes*

“Magellan... "The church says the earth is flat, but I know that it is round, for I have seen the shadow on the moon, and I have more faith in a shadow than in the church.”

Voltaire... "Atheism is the vice of a few intelligent people.”

Mozart... "The orthodoxy of my youth is all over, and will never come back.”

Beethoven... Fellow composer Joseph Haydn called Beethoven an atheist. As Beethoven lay dying in 1827, religious friends summoned a priest to perform the last rites. The mighty musician endured it, then remarked sardonically: "Applaud, friends, the comedy is over.”

Benjamin Franklin... "Lighthouses are more helpful than churches.”

Thomas Paine... "The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion."....."One good schoolmaster is of more use than a hundred priests."....."Propheying is lying professionally.”