



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

Our Program for Saturday, October 4th...

Literary critic and Raconteur,
Clearwater's own

James Butler

Will hold forth, entertain, amuse and educate as he comments on worthwhile books that have caught his fancy. First up is a review of some of the "New Atheist" books that have created quite a stir in on the best seller lists over the past two years. He will consider such works as: *The End of Faith* by Sam Harris, *The Atheist Manifesto* by Michael Onfray, *God: the Failed Hypothesis* by Victor Stenger, *The Atheist's Bible* by Joan Konner, and *Classics of Freethought* edited by Paul Blanshard. Participation is Welcome! Jim has been a humanist for a few years now, but considered himself a free thinker before labeling himself a humanist. He retired young with a lot of time but no money. He spends his days happily pursuing



his many interests and aesthetic pleasures. That is, reading and music, but mostly reading. In such pursuits, he has become very adept with his Internet skills.

Volume 17 No. 10

October, 2008

Next Month:

**Who needs
Art anyway?**

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

**Saturday,
October 4th
2:00 PM**

**Clearwater East
Library
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.

Center for Inquiry - Florida October SOCIAL Lunch

Saturday, October 4, 11:30 \$7 up

Michael's Grill 11720 N Dale Mabry

Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618 PH (813) 964-8334

RSVP by 12, Wednesday, Oct. 1 To:

Phone 813.849.7571 or

Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net

For info on our social dinner, see back page.

And Speaking of Atheism...

The Atheists of Florida have opened their new offices at **3614 South Manhattan Avenue in Tampa** (just a block north of the Platt Library, same side of the street) With video recording facilities, and a library of relevant materials, they can offer the freethought community the opportunity to be creative with outreach. They are also looking for volunteers to staff the facility on a regular basis.



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!

We need your help

to keep humanist issues in the forefront of politicians' minds With candidates flaunting their religious credentials, we need to make it impossible for them to ignore non-religious Americans. Write your elected officials and ask for answers to these important questions:

1. Is America a Christian nation and, if so, in what sense?
2. How does religious liberty apply to those not sharing a conventional beliefs?
3. Should religions that endorse candidates lose their tax-exempt status?
4. Is religion the only source of moral values?

The number of Americans who don't hold a traditional view of God is growing. Let's make that clear to our leaders. The more of us who ask these questions, the more they will realize that we are a significant constituency.

Our voices matter, and it's time to make them heard. Demand that your leaders keep us in mind by **writing** to them today. If you get an interesting response, let me know Jim P.



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 the

Greek Islands Restaurant

at 5:00PM on Sunday October 19th.

This restaurant serves a full menu featuring Greek cuisine with many dinners priced under \$10.00.

It is located at 1501 Clearwater - Largo Rd a couple of miles north of West Bay on the west side of the street..

Please reserve with Glenn Paul at 727-595-3347 or glennkayp@juno.com by Saturday October 20th.

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 or E-mail mmodis@3oaks.com

Call (813) 531-8138 for changes to this list.

JP

Laugh Lines Signs of Wit on planet Earth

When giving directions in Florida, you should always start with the words, "take I-75... .

If you're a snowbird or a non-working retiree, you absolutely cannot drive between the hours of 6am and 10am and 4pm and 7pm. This is considered to be rush hour and you're not in any rush. No exceptions.

I-275 will always be under construction...that's the law; there is nothing anyone can do about it, period!

Traffic lights aren't timed and never will be.

We measure the distance you travel in time, not miles.

If you miss your exit on I-75, I-4 or I-275, it's perfectly acceptable to back up.

Every street in Florida has both a name and a number IE Adamo = SR60(State Road 60) that is just for the hell of it and for the pleasure we get from the reaction of visitors when we give them directions.

Once the light turns green, only 3 cars can go through the intersection. Eight more go through on yellow, and 4 on red.

Flip flops, tank tops and baggy shorts are also known as business casual.

Your blinker means nothing.

.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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~*~*~*~*~*~

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

The Humanist Society of the Suncoast

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Dear Fellow Floridian,

I have been a resident of Florida for nearly 30 years and have never known the legislature to put an amendment on the ballot for the benefit of the citizens. Rather, the amendments normally benefit the legislature's political agenda. This year, the worst of a bad lot is Amendment 2, the misnamed "Marriage Protection" amendment.

This bad idea will NOT protect anyone's marriage; nor will it affect in any way the ability of same-sex couples to marry in Florida. There is a law prohibiting that already on the books - and this upcoming election will not allow gays/lesbians to marry regardless of the outcome. What this amendment WILL do is deny cohabiting unmarried couples spousal benefits that many already enjoy - for example, senior citizens who share living quarters for economic benefits.

This amendment could also take away government employee job benefits as well as benefits from companies like Disney and others. It could also remove the rights of visitation, end of life decisions and other rights already in place.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote NO on all the amendments on November 4th and especially on Amendment 2.

[Note: amendments 5, 7 and 9 have already been removed by the Florida Supreme Court]

Yours in Democracy,

Kay Paul

P.S. The number of unmarried couples living together in Florida has been calculated at 360,000 and only 40,000 of them are gay or lesbian.

In order to vote in this election, you must register by October 6th.

Letters and articles of interest to our members are strongly encouraged. Send them to the Editor at humanist@ij.net
Thanks!