

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.

Death, Recycling, and the Boy Scouts

A video & Discussion afternoon with **Penn Gillette and Teller**

plus a Special report on new links to what Sphinx thinks.

Volume 16 No. 6

June, 2007

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

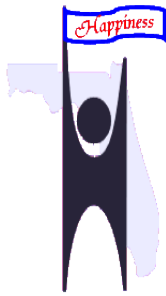
at 2129 Drew St. just a few blocks west of the Library.

Those of us who have sampled the cuisine came away well satisfied, and without substantial detriment to our personal wealth.

Please join us for this free open discussion.

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

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



On the value of Skeptical thinking

From Umberto Eco's novel *Foucault's Pendulum*:

"Believe that there is a secret and you will feel an initiate. It doesn't cost a thing. Create an enormous hope that can never be eradicated because there is no root. Ancestors that never were will never tell you that you betrayed them.

Create a truth with fuzzy edges: when someone tries to define it, you repudiate him. Why go on writing novels? Rewrite history."



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!



Warning! Warning!
The video programs we will present contain language which may test the limits of individual capacity for vulgarisms and naughty bits.

They defy labels, and at times, good taste. They've performed together for 30 years; skewering the genre of magic, their sold-out audiences, and themselves --

very often all at the same time, within one mind-boggling evening. And along the way, **Penn & Teller** have made the hardest trick of all – a remarkable career that ranges from stage to television to three best-selling books – look easy. And they've done it all on their own, distinctively offbeat terms.

Their latest project, "[Penn & Teller: Bullshit!](#)" for the Showtime network, is in its fourth season.

The controversial show, which has received six Emmy nominations and the 2004 WGA award for Outstanding Comedy/Variety Series, tackles the frauds and fakes behind such topics as talking to the dead, alien abductions and feng shui.

Penn & Teller have written three best-selling books, *Cruel Tricks for Dear Friends*, *How to Play with Your Food*, and *How to Play in Traffic*; and penned pieces in outlets ranging from The New York Times to Playboy.

Penn & Teller's understanding of magic and their ability to relate to audiences has also garnered serious academic attention. They serve as Visiting Scholars at MIT, that school's highest honor, and have lectured at Oxford University and the Smithsonian Institution. In 2001, they received the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award.



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 ...

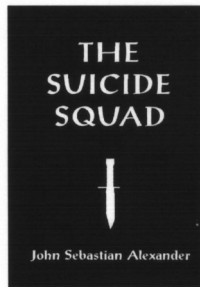
Our June social dinner will be held at

Adriano's Cafe

2130 East Bay Drive (Keene Plaza), Largo, FL 33771
Saturday, June 23rd at 4 PM

This is a small, family style restaurant where the food is usually very good, plentiful, and not too expensive. The atmosphere is usually quiet, and will facilitate our conversation.

Please call Glenn at 727-595-3347 by Friday, June 22nd or E-mail glennkayp@juno.com for reservations.



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 ... 13 Thoughts

- 1.. My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.
- 2.. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
- 3.. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
- 4.. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
- 5.. Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.
- 6.. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me
- 7.. Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.
- 8.. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.
- 9.. I'm not a complete idiot -- Some parts are just missing.
- 10.. Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
- 11.. Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.
- 12.. God must love stupid people; He made so many.
- 13.. The gene pool could use a little chlorine.

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 ~

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**Send to: Hal East, Treasurer
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 2361 Harrison Dr,
 Dunedin, FL 34698**