

# 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.*

*This is our...*

## Last Best chance

**Nuclear weapons: still the gravest peril to Human Survival**

Volume 16 No. 3

March, 2007

**It's past Dues Re-  
newal Time again!  
But we've made  
special arrange-  
ments to accept  
yours!**

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 satisfied,  
and without subs-  
stantial detriment to  
our personal wealth.

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

**Saturday,  
March 3rd  
2:00 PM**

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



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!

### Chips off the old board

A board meeting was held on Thursday morning, Feb. 15th. The following motions were adopted:

- We will have assistant backup positions for board officers.
- Archival documents of the organization will be maintained by the president, treasurer, and secretary.
- New "outreach cards" will be available for distribution to the members to further acquaint the public with our identity and purpose.
- The treasurer reports we have \$1455. as the current balance.
- Members asked to consider accepting electronic edition of the newsletter to conserve our operating funds.



Despite the ongoing concern about the threat of "conventional" weapons in the hands of terrorists, we still have a nuclear sword of Damocles hanging over our heads now, more than 16 years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Little urgency and scant resources have been placed in the service of dismantling these world destroying weapons. Indeed, these systems are still on a 15 minute threshold of launch trigger. Not only has the US declined to reduce its weapons stock, but an administration proposal to increase the number and lethality of these weapons is presently before congress.

In this meeting, we will view a short video presentation on this subject, and try gain a better understanding of the situation of where we are and what we must do to ensure the survival of our species.

### About the film

Last Best Chance is a docudrama that shows the threat posed by vulnerable nuclear weapons and materials around the world and underscores what the stakes are. In the movie, al Qaeda operatives organize three separate operations aimed at getting nuclear weapons. The material is then fabricated into three crude nuclear weapons by small groups of trained terrorists, who have recruited bomb-making experts to help them manufacture their weapons. Governments around the world discover clues to the plot, but are unable to uncover the scheme before the weapons are en route to their destinations. The film clearly demonstrates that the hardest job for terrorists is gaining control of a nuclear weapon or material. Because the governments had failed to take sufficient action to secure or destroy the nuclear weapons.



*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 monthly social dinner will be held at  
**TUCSON'S CANTINA AND GRILL**

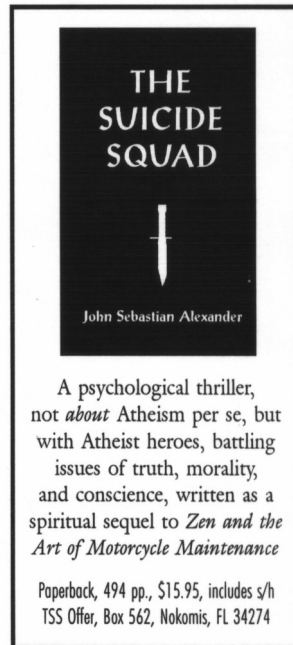
on Sunday, March 18th, at 5:00PM. We will share the meal with a very special guest; **Fred Edwords**, Communications director for the AHA.

This familiar restaurant is located at 13563 Icot Blvd in Clearwater just off Ulmerton Road.

Please call Glenn at 727-595-3347, or email reply for reservations by Saturday, March 17th.

See discount coupon in 'The Entertainment Book'

- Refer to - [www.tucsonscantina.com](http://www.tucsonscantina.com) for menu details.



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

Call (727) 213-0460 for changes to this list.

## Laugh Lines ...

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
3. I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded .
5. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few . . .
6. All reports are in; life is now officially unfair.
7. If all is not lost, where is it?
8. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
9. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded .
10. It's not hard to meet expenses . . . they're everywhere.

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 of educated and compassionate people. Let me know if you would like to recommend such a person or organization. Call Jim at (813) 283-1645

## HUMANISTS OF THE SUNCOAST

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

### Board of Directors

Meets Sept., December, April

- Jim Butler**  
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~\*~\*~\*~\*~

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E-Mail us at:

[sunhum@metrodirect.net](mailto:sunhum@metrodirect.net)

*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

☞ Regular -\$30.

☞ Reg. Couple -\$40.

☞ Life -\$200.

☞ life Couple -\$250.

☞ Limited income -\$10.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(Privacy respected)

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