

Rationalists of East Tennessee Newsletter
August 2011 – edited by Ralph Isler

Opportunities: For several months the TV program Freethought Forum has been hosted mainly by Larry Rhodes, Lee Erikson, and Joe Barnhart, with occasional visits by Dale Haste and Jonas Holdeman. It would be greatly appreciated if more RET members could offer to co-host some of the presentations and reduce the burden on our regular panelists. Larry (arrayr@usit.net) and Lee (forresterickson@comcast.net) would be happy to help you prepare and guide you through your on-air “baptism”.

Quote of the month: “There is no cure for life and death, save to enjoy the interval.” – George Santayana

Cartoon of the month:

<http://srnnews.townhall.com/cartoons/cartoonist/jerryholbert/2011/07/3/>

RET August 2011 calendar:

Freethought Forum

Every Tuesday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Community Channel of Knoxville – Comcast Channel 12

The free streaming live broadcast can be seen at <http://ctvknox.org/> for those who do not live in Knoxville. These discussions feature “Faithless” Forest Erickson, Larry Rhodes, and Joe Barnhart. They can usually be found on YOUTUBE within a day or so.

Sunday, August 7 – Presentation.

Topic: The "Story of Stuff" and other short documentaries by filmmaker Annie Leonard

Speaker: Charles Ormazu

Time/location: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Pellissippi State, Goins Bldg., Cafeteria Annex

The “Story of Stuff” is a 20 minute animated documentary about the life cycle of material goods. It is being used by many groups as awareness training critical of excessive consumerism and has been viewed by over 12 million people. Stories about electronics, bottled water, cap and trade, and Citizens United vs the FEC will also be presented.

Sunday, August 14 - Skeptic Book Club

Time and location: 4:00 to 6:00pm, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 8029 Kingston Pike.

Book: "Twenty three things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism" by Ha-Joon Chang, an economics professor at Cambridge University. Chang examines the many myths in the narrative of free-market liberalism, crucially that the name is itself a misnomer: there is nothing "free" about a market where wages are largely politically determined; that greater macroeconomic stability has not made the world economy more stable; and a more educated population itself won't make a country richer.

Sunday, August 21 - presentation

Topic: "Jesus – Fact or Fiction".

Speaker: Phillip King

Time and Location: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Pellissippi State, Goins Bldg., Cafeteria Annex

Sunday, August 28 – Reflections Group (potluck dinner)

Topic: The Future – what will society be like in the coming decades. Bring your predictions.

Time and Location: The meeting will start at 4:00 pm (note change from usual time) at the home of Stephen and Carol Toakay, 8905 Garrison Drive, Knoxville, TN 37391. Call 865-691-6816 for directions.

Extra Feature: Grammar – The form and structure of words (or your mother’s mother)

More definitions from the Washington Post's Mensa Invitational, which once again this year asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supplying a new definition. Here are more of the top entries to be added to those posted last month.

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 bummer.

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.

14. Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

15. Arachnoleptic Fit(n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

16. Beelzebug (n): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

17. Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.