

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

Announcement: Guidelines for RETdiscuss have been distributed to all current participants in the forum. Agreement to these guidelines will be required for continued participation, and postings will be monitored for compliance. Any member, who has dropped out of the group because of the uncivil nature of certain discussions in the past, may want to consider rejoining. You can request a copy of the guidelines and an agreement form by contacting me at risler1@comcast.net using the subject “request”.

Quote of the month: “All active mass movements strive.....to impose a fact-proof screen between the faithful and the realities of the world. They do this by claiming that the ultimate and absolute truth is already embodied in their doctrine and that there is no truth or certitude outside it....It is startling to realize how much unbelief is necessary to make belief possible. What we know as blind faith is sustained by innumerable unbeliefs.”---Eric Hoffer in “The True Believer

Cartoons of the month:

<http://www.gocomics.com/nonsequitur/2011/05/31>
<http://www.gocomics.com/nonsequitur/2011/06/01>
<http://www.gocomics.com/nonsequitur/2011/06/03>

RET July 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, July 3 – No Meeting.

There will be no RET meeting on July 3rd due to the holiday, and the freethinkers picnic gathering at Lake Hypatia in northern Alabama.

Sunday, July 10 - Skeptic Book Club

Book: "The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Value" by Sam Harris.

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

Sunday, July 17 - presentation

Topic: "The Pursuit of Happiness, How Humanists Do It".

Speaker: Jennifer Hancock

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

Jennifer Hancock is a writer, speaker, and Humanist. She is the author of the new book, 'The Humanist Approach to Happiness: Practical Wisdom.' She is the Tampa Humanism and Freethought Examiner for Examiner.com and writes a monthly freelance column about Humanism for the Bradenton Herald Newspaper.

She also has her own blog and podcast about the Humanist Approach to happiness. Jen is on the web at: www.jen-hancock.com

Jennifer will have books available for purchase. Let's show her good turnout.

Sunday, July 24 – Reflections Group (potluck lunch)

Topic: To be announced

Location: To be announced

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Non-RET Event:

Friday July 1-Sunday July 3

Lake Hypatia Advance, Lake Hypatia, Alabama. A freethought meeting sponsored by the Alabama Freethought Association, a chapter of the Freedom from Religion Foundation. For details see <http://ffrf.org/outreach/lake-hypatia/>

Extra Feature: Lexicon - A dictionary (or a used car salesman trying to pawn off two pre-owned Japanese vehicles)

Thanks to both Mike Valentine and Schera Chadwick for passing these definitions along:.
The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supplying a new definition. Here are the winners:

1. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. Ignoranus : A person who's both stupid and an asshole.
3. Intaxicatn : Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
- 4.Reintarnation : Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
5. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future
6. Foreploy : Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
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.

More definitions next time.

