

Rationalists of East Tennessee Newsletter
May 2010 – written by Dave Buck

REPEAT REQUEST:

I'd like to add some very short commentaries from readers to future newsletters. If you notice an event in the news that is relevant to our group, perhaps jot a paragraph about it and sent it to me at buck.dave@gmail.com

CAMP QUEST

Camp Quest of the Smoky Mountains for 2010 will be held July 25 - August 1, for ages 8-17. The fee is \$575 per camper (each additional sibling, \$525). Deduct \$50 if fees are paid in full 8 weeks before camp starts. For more info, contact Jonas Holdeman at (865) 966-6478 or go to rationalists.org/cq

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our two newest members: Michael Capps (Knoxville) and Anna Grabowski (Ten Mile, TN). This brings total membership up to 103!

RET MAY / MAY CALENDAR:

Saturday, May 1st – Potluck Dinner for Victor Stenger

Location: Marsha Doyle's home,

Time: 6:00pm, Bring a covered dish to share. Email Marsha for directions at caramia@knology.net

Sunday, May 2nd – Annual public event -- 2:00 – 4:00 PM (NOTE SPECIAL TIME!)

This is our annual public lecture where we invite a special speaker to present in the auditorium at Pelissippi State in the Goins Building. Our speaker is Victor J. Stenger, emeritus professor of physics, University of Hawaii, author of the 2007 bestseller "God: the Failed Hypothesis -- How Science Shows that God Does not Exist."

Dinesh D'Souza and Deepak Chopra have claimed that reason and science “supply new and persuasive evidence for the afterlife- evidence that wasn't there before.” They rely on studies of past-life memories, near-death experiences, various paranormal claims, and the notion that quantum mechanics gives reason to believe that consciousness is a separate entity from our bodies and brains, and is thus able to survive death. Stenger will examine this evidence from the point of view of a physicist who has spent forty years studying the fundamental structure of the universe.

Sunday, May 9th - Skeptic Book Club

Book: The brain that changes itself. By Norman Doidge

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

Sunday, May 16st - Roundtable

Topic: Tracing Our Cosmic Origins through Leadership-Class Computing

Time/location: 10:30 - 12:30, Pellissippi State, Goins Bldg., Cafeteria Annex

Discussant: Dr. Anthony Mezzacappa of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Sunday, May 23th – Reflections Group (potluck dinner)

Topic: TBD

Location: home of Schera Chadwick & Ted Lollis, 9219 George Williams Road, Knoxville 37922

Time: 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Call 865.690.8742 for detailed directions