

From: Rationalists of East Tennessee admin@rationalists.org
Subject: RET News January 2017
Date: December 31, 2016 at 10:36 AM
To: Carl Ledendecker ledendecker@att.net



RET News January 2017 CE (A bit late)



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Rationalists of East Tennessee Newsletter

January 2017

First Sunday Meeting

January 1 Sunday 10:30 - 12:30

Pellissippi State Community College, Goins Building, Cafeteria Annex

Happy New Year

Take the morning off. NO MEETING

The RET Skeptic Book Club

January 8 Sunday 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: Books-A-Million at 8513 Kingston Pike, Knoxville.

"Islam and the Future of Tolerance: A Dialogue by Sam Harris and Maajid Nawaz".

In this short book, Sam Harris and Maajid Nawaz invite you to join an urgently needed conversation: Is Islam a religion of peace or war? Is it amenable to reform? Why do so many Muslims seem drawn to extremism? What do words like Islamism, jihadism, and fundamentalism mean in today's world? Remarkable for the breadth and depth of its analysis, this dialogue between a famous atheist and a former radical is all the more startling for its decorum. Harris and Nawaz have produced something genuinely new: they engage one of the most polarizing issues of our time—fearlessly and fully—and actually make progress. (144 pages).

RET Highway Clean Up

January 14 Saturday 1:00 PM

Burger King at Lovell Road and Pellissippi Parkway

Bring gloves and a picker-upper. Dress appropriately.

If you have not seen the instructional video please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAnxSIIIP7eY&feature=voitu>

[http://www.rationalists.org/...](#)
Make Pellissippi Clean Again! (At least 2 miles of it)

RET Third Sunday Meeting

January 15 Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Pellissippi State Community College, Goins Auditorium

Professor Jay Rubenstein, of the University of Tennessee History department, will speak on "Meet Joachim of Fiore: The Greatest Prophet of the Middle Ages."

[Get Directions](#)

RET Reflections Meeting

January 22 Sunday 2:00 PM

At Steve and Carol Tokay's 8905 Garrison Drive, Knoxville, TN 37913-2416 (865) 691-6816

Discussion and Potluck Topic to Be Announced

RET Annual Business Meeting

February 5 Sunday 10:30 - 12:30

Minutes of last Business

meeting: <http://www.rationalists.org/resources/Documents/Minutes/Business%20Meeting%202016-02-07.pdf>

It is recommended to read the minutes before attending the business meeting.

Help Needed:

Please contact us at info@rationalists.org.

Willing to serve on the board? Please join in keeping RET active and relevant.

From the Nomination Committee Chair

Per the bylaws of The Rationalists Of East Tennessee (RET) , we have annual elections for our Board of Directors and Officers.

This election will be on Feb. 5, 2017.

The nominations committee encourages all RET members who would like to strengthen the RET organization and perh; too, their own personal growth, to consider seriously becoming a member of the Board of Directors or even an Officer.

Any individual or life member can be elected to the board. Further, our bylaws provide for four officers, "President, Vice Presid Treasurer, and Secretary." And officers have to meet these additional qualifications: An Officer shall be at least 18 years old an have been a member for at least one year.

A few excerpts from our by laws will help understand the rolls of the Board and Officers.

The Board shall consist of no less than five Directors, including the Officers. Directors

The Board shall consist of no less than five Directors, including the Officers. Directors shall hold office for a term of one year or until their successors are elected.

Meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called upon written request of three members of the Board.

The board shall hold its annual meeting before the Organization's annual meeting.

Board members shall serve without compensation,

These Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Organization.

In part, these duties are:

The President shall be the chief executive Officer, coordinating the work of Officers and committees, and signing contracts.....

The Vice-President becomes President if the President's office becomes vacant, and assumes the office temporarily if the vacancy is temporary. The Vice-President shall assist the President as requested.

The Secretary shall (1) record the minutes of the Organization and Board meetings, (2) handle the Organization and Board correspondence, (3) maintain a permanent file of the Organization and Board bylaws and other documents, including Officers and committee chairpersons' reports, publications, and correspondence, (4) keep the official membership roll, (5) send out to the membership a notice of each meeting, and (6) compile the order of business for meetings.

The Treasurer shall (1) keep records of money received and spent, (2) safeguard the Organization's funds, (3) compile and submit an annual financial statement as required, (4) Provide record of dues payments to the Secretary as requested, and (5) invest funds if so directed by the Board, and following the Board's guidelines.

This information is partial. The full information can be found in our bylaws available at rationalists.org in the Members Only section.

If you are able and willing to help the Rationalist of East Tennessee meet the purposes of our organization, please contact any member of the nominations committee. We would like your commitment soon.

Nominations committee

Shawnee Casteel 423-736-5529 or by shawneecasteel@aol.com

Lee Erickson 865-805-2437 or by forresterickson@comcast.net

Jonas Holderman 865-966-6478 or by j.t.holdeman@gmail.com

RET Skeptics Book Club - Books List

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- ***January 8, 2017: Islam and the Future of Tolerance: A Dialogue***
- ***February 12, 2017: The Utility Of Force: The Art Of War In The Modern World*** by Rupert Smith.
- ***March 12, 2017: White Trash: the 400 year Untold History of Class in America*** by Nancy Isenberg.
- ***April 9, 2017: BEING MORTAL: Medicine and What Matters in the End*** by Atul Gawande.
- ***May 14, 2017: The Serengeti Rules: The Quest to Discover How Life Works and Why It Matters*** by Sean B. Carroll.
- ***June 11, 2017: All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation*** by Rebecca Traister.
- ***July 9, 2017: Makers and Takers: The Rise of Finance and the Fall of American Business*** by Rana Foroohar

Other Activities in the area

Atheist Society of Knoxville

Meets Tuesdays at 5:30 PM

New location: Don Gallo at Hardin Valley Road and Pellissippi Parkway

Conversation, Food and Drink

East Tennessee Freedom From Religion Foundation Chapter

January 18 Wednesday 7:00 PM

Meets on the 3rd Wednesdays of each month

Earth Fare Turkey Creek

RET/ASK Freethought Forum TV

Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Note change: Due to Knoxville Beer Board Meeting changes there will be no FFTV on varying Tuesday once a month.

Freethought Forum TV is looking for people to be on the show. Contact Larry Rhodes or Lee Erickson if you are interested.

Knoxville: Comcast Channel 12 Charter Channel 6 Free streaming on ctvknox.org.

Right after the show a co-host of the program holds The Atheist Society of Knoxville Meet-up at Barley's on Jackson Avenue in Knoxville's Old City or other published locations). Volunteer hosts and suggestions for topics would be welcome for all of these programs. Contact Larry Rhodes at larryr@usit.net or Lee Erickson at forresterickson@comcast.net.

Sunday Assembly Knoxville Live Better, Help Often, Wonder More

January 22 - Renewal will be the theme

Location: The International at 940 Blackstock Ave., Knoxville, TN

Time: 10:30 AM

For other SA activities go to <http://knoxville-tn.sundayassembly.com> and click on "Calendar."

Website: <http://knoxville-tn.sundayassembly.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sunday-Assembly-Knoxville/595906073848559>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Knoxville/> Email: saknoxville@gmail.com

Future Activities

American Humanist Association 76th Annual Conference

Charleston, South Carolina June 8-11, 2017

conference.americanhumanist.org

Member News:

Carl Ledendecker was not paying attention to the calendar and just noticed that January is tomorrow. Therefore the Newsletter is late.

(Please contact me at ledendecker@att.net if you have any relevant news about RET members that they agree to share.)

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