

From: Rationalists of East Tennessee admin@rationalists.org
Subject: RET News March 2017
Date: February 21, 2017 at 9:39 PM
To: Carl Ledendecker ledendecker@att.net



RET News March 2017 CE



Rationalists of East Tennessee Newsletter

March 2017

First Sunday Meeting

March 5 Sunday 10:30 - 12:30

Pellissippi State Community College, Goins Building, Cafeteria Annex

Genes, Environment and Fate: the Origins of Human Differences

RET member, Michael Lance will lead this presentation and discussion.

[Get Directions](#)

The RET Skeptic Book Club

March 12 Sunday 2:00 – 4:00 pm

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

"White Trash: the 400 year Untold History of Class in America" by Nancy Isenberg

Surveying political rhetoric and policy, popular literature and scientific theories over four hundred years, Isenberg upends assumptions about America's supposedly class-free society—where liberty and hard work were meant to ensure real social mobility. Poor whites were central to the rise of the Republican Party in the early nineteenth century, and the Civil War itself was fought over class issues nearly as much as it was fought over slavery. Reconstruction pitted poor white trash against newly freed slaves, which factored in the rise of eugenics—a widely popular movement embraced by Theodore Roosevelt that targeted poor whites for sterilization. These poor were at the heart of New Deal reforms and LBJ's Great Society; they haunt us in reality TV shows like *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo* and *Duck Dynasty*. Marginalized as a class, white trash have always been at or near the center of major political debates over the character of the American identity. (480 pages).

RET Third Sunday Meeting

March 19 Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Pellissippi State Community College, Goins Auditorium

RET member Shawn Grant will present a talk titled "The Joys of Backyard Stargazing". The presentation will concentrate on how to appreciate the night sky by naked eye and with binoculars that most of us already own. Tips will be given on how to identify constellations and planets. Meteor showers, planetary

conjunctions, and eclipses will also be discussed together with a demonstration of phone apps that help to navigate the sky and to forecast interesting events. There will also be a strong focus on the upcoming total solar eclipse visible in East Tennessee on August 21, including the best locations for viewing and how to do it safely.

Understanding the features of the night sky is a good gateway towards scientific literacy that we should share with others, and Shawn will briefly discuss how fascination with this aspect of nature fostered his love of science and led him away from religion.

[Get Directions](#)

RET Reflections Meeting

March 26 Sunday 2:00 PM

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

Discussion and Potluck

Topic: Do marches or protests help issues? Are they effective? Do letters or phone calls make more of an impression on the current regime? How do we make our voices heard by our current government?

RET Skeptics Book Club - Books List

- [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

ASK Meet-up for location: Flats and Taps, 7403 Kingston Pike Knoxville, TN 37919

Conversation, Food and Drink

East Tennessee Freedom From Religion Foundation Chapter

March 15 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 Tuesdays 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. (See above A information for location.) Volunteer hosts and suggestions for topics would be welcome for all of these progr
Contact Larry Rhodes at larryr@usit.net or Lee Erickson at forresterickson@comcast.net.

Sunday Assembly Knoxville Live Better, Help Often, Wonder More

March 26 - Helping

Location: The International at 940 Blackstock Ave., Knoxville, TN Time: 10:30 AM

For other SA activities go top <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

Rally to March For Science in Washington, DC on 4/22/2017

There will also be a local event. <https://www.facebook.com/ScienceMarchKnox/>

This is the link for a bus service trying to set up a bus: <http://rallybus.net/march-for-science/>

NaNoCon (Nashville Nones Convention)

Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM CDT Hillsboro High School, 3812 Hillsboro Rd., Nashvill
37215

<https://nashvillenones.com>

ReAsonCon April 21 - 22 Hickory NC

Crowne Plaza Hickory 385 Lenoir Rhyne Blvd SE, Hickory, North Carolina 28602

American Humanist Association 76th Annual Conference Charleston, South Carolina June 8-11, 2017

<http://conference.americanhumanist.org>

Member News

Welcome to the new RET Board

President: Carl Ledendecker

Vice-President: Michael Lance

Treasurer: Eliot Specht

Secretary: Donna Maxwell

Directors: Jonas Holderman, Lee Erickson, Donna Watson, Sharron King, Joel Shor, Shawn Grant, Shawnee Castile
Rios, Joy Camacho, Aleta Ledendecker

Click here for a link to the Annual Business

Minutes: [http://www.rationalists.org/resources/Documents/Minutes/Minutes%202017-02-05%20\(business%20meeting\).pdf](http://www.rationalists.org/resources/Documents/Minutes/Minutes%202017-02-05%20(business%20meeting).pdf)

Thanks to Donna Watson and Sharron King for offering to take over the RET Newsletter. I have no doubt that they will do a bet

than I have. Look for new management next month.

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

Other news

Excerpt from Washington Post article by Emma Brown

"A policy manifesto from an influential conservative group with ties to the Trump administration, including Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, urges the dismantling of the Education Department and bringing God into American classrooms.

The five-page document produced by the Council for National Policy calls for a 'restoration of education in America' that would minimize the federal role, promote religious schools and home schooling and enshrine 'historic Judeo-Christian principles' as a basis for instruction."

Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/influential-conservative-group-trump-devos-should-dismantle-education-department-and-bring-into-classrooms/2017/02/15/196bf872-f2df-11e6-8d72-263470bf0401_story.html?utm_term=.3143094fee52

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Divine Right of Kings Anyone?

Pat Robertson "suggests that those people opposing Trump are challenging God's authority. Referring to [Psa 2:2](#), 'The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed'...."

http://www.patheos.com/blogs/progressivesecularhumanist/2017/02/pat-robertson-opposition-trump-revolt-god/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BRSS&utm_campaign=Nonreligious&utm_content=367

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