

**From:** Rationalists of East Tennessee ROET@wildapricot.org  
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## Rationalists of East Tennessee Newsletter

September 2015

**RET has a new web site! See information & how to log-in below.**

### First Sunday Meeting

**September 6 Sunday 10:30 - 12:30**

**Pellissippi State Community College, Goins Building, Cafeteria Annex**

A DVD documentary on William Miller and the End of the World 1844 will be shown. This is an interesting history of the religious situation during this period of time. It is the story of thousands of Americans preparing for the end of the world and their campaign to convince others. This also is a story about those who (sometimes physically) opposed them. It's a fascinating history of the times.

[Get Directions](#)

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### The RET Skeptic Book Club

**September 13 Sunday 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

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

The Book for our September Meeting will be “Culture Wars: The Threat to Your Family and Your Freedom” by Marie Alena Castle. Boldly stated and passionately supported, this argument against religious influence on the American government and legal system analyzes the impact that religion has on culture in the United States. The book makes the claim that many laws based on religious beliefs, specifically theology promoted in the Middle Ages, are misattributed as long-standing social values and that changing the theology itself threatens the religious institution supporting it-igniting a cultural war engulfed in fear and resulting in political dysfunction. It reveals that from sexuality to family planning and the tax system, religious doctrines permeate and direct American life without accounting for the differing views of individuals, and in response, the author provides strategies for overcoming the imposition of external religious views and demonstrates the value in standing up for a secular nation where morality is not tied to one particular religious group.

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### RET Third Sunday Meeting

**September 20 Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

**Pellissippi State Community College, Goins Auditorium**

Professor Thomas Papenbrock of the University of Tennessee Physics Department will present a talk titled

"The atomic nucleus — core of matter, fuel of stars".

The atomic nucleus is the tiny center of an atom that carries almost all its mass. It consists of protons and neutrons and is held together by the strong force. Contemporary research in atomic nuclei focuses on rare isotopes, i.e. short-lived nuclei that exhibit an unusual ratio of protons and neutrons. Studies of rare isotopes inform us about unknown details of the strong force, about the origin of elements heavier than iron, and the fate of massive stars. This presentation aims to give a short overview of the exciting questions in contemporary research in the physics of nuclei.

[Get Directions](#)

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**RET Reflections Meeting**

**September 27 Sunday 2:00 p.m.**

At Steve and Carol Tokay's at 691-6816

8905 Garrison Drive, Knoxville TN 37931.

**Interacting with Religious Family**

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**Special Event!**

**Autumnal Equinox Picnic**

**September 24 Sunday 4:00 p.m.**

Tyson Park Pavillion 1, 2351 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919

What: Bring something to grill for yourself and something to share! We will fire up the grills at 4:00 with eating to start around 6:00 PM.

Why: Let's get all the Free Thought groups together for some fun and mingling.

[Click Here for Directions](#)

Also, there will be a Blood Drive at MEDIC for members at 3:00.

1601 Ailor Ave [Knoxville, TN 37921](#)

**RET/ASK Freethought Forum TV**

**Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00 pm**

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](http://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. Volunteer hosts and suggestions for topics would be welcome for all of these programs. Contact Larry Rhodes at [larryr@usit.net](mailto:larryr@usit.net) or Lee Erickson at [forresterickson@comcast.net](mailto:forresterickson@comcast.net).

## **Sunday Assembly Knoxville** Live Better, Help Often, Wonder More

September 27 - This month's theme is "Happy Birthday Knoxville Sunday Assembly" Charles Towne Landing HOA Club House 11:00 am.

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

Email: [saknoxville@gmail.com](mailto:saknoxville@gmail.com)

Website: <http://knoxville-tn.sundayassembly.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sunday-Assembly-Knoxville/595906073848559>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Knoxville/>

**Freedom From Religion Foundation** convention in Madison Wisconsin on October 9 - 11

[Atheist Alliance of America](#) conference in Atlanta on October 15 -18

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## **RET's New Web Site and Wild Apricot** (Membership management software)

If you have gone to RET's web site recently you will notice a new look. That in itself is a big improvement but even more exciting and important is the membership management software underlying that look.

We have bee plagued by an antiquated and kludged-together system for many years. That has made security, announcements, membership management, dues, newsletters and communication very cumbersome, and at times frustrating.

Except for some of us still being somewhere on the "learning curve," all of these issues should now be resolved. Here are just some of the benefits:

- 1. Membership software verses just a website
- 2. Word Press and gadget Security updates included
- 3. Word Press and gadget software patches included
- 4. Organize all email and member lists in one place
- 5. Install Captcha to increase security and prevent Bot signups
- 6. Members can reset their own passwords
- 7. New member auto sign up
- 8. Automated membership renewals
- 9. Members control and can change their own contact information
- 10. Newsletter tracking
- 11. Register for events and receive email reminders
- 12. Add events to member calendars in ICS format
- 13. Reduced volunteer time and skill needed to maintain website, membership changes, etc
- 14. Improved membership data
- 15. Ability to sell tickets to events
- 16. Member only events no longer viewable by the public

**How to set up your new password, login and Profile.**

**TO LOG IN**

Go to Rationalists.org. There, just above The Thinkers head, you will see a "Login" button. That's right, click on it. Use the email address that is already associated with RET contacts and mailings and click on "Forgot Password". There you will enter the email address and Captcha code.

Once logged in: Click on your name in the upper left hand corner of the page above the thinker. Under my profile click on "Privacy." Then click on Edit Profile. Then check of " Show profile to others. Select what information you want available to other members. Click save at the bottom of the page. This is where you give them permission to see your contact information. You choose what they can see. Only the membership can see it. If you do not grant access here no one can contact you except the board.

The login password is the same as it was on the old site if you had or remember one. You use your email address instead of the old username.

If you have any trouble getting set up you can contact me at [ledendecker@att.net](mailto:ledendecker@att.net) for assistance.

A few notes:

In the Directory "public" means public to the membership not any one else.

Membership dues will now be based on one year from date joined (paid) not just from Jan 1 to Dec. 31.

The "Events" tab also has a calendar view if you prefer that visual.

This Newsletter was written and distributed via Wild Apricot.

Don't forget to enter you information into the RET Directory (viewable by members only and customizable by you so people see only what you want them to).

Please provide feedback on this new system so we can continue to improve and grow the Freethought community.

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**And now for something completely different . . .**

### **Oh you witty Pastafarians!**

Our pasta who art in the colander, draining be your noodles.  
Thy noodle come, Thy sauce be Yum, on top of some grated Parmesan.  
Give us this day our garlic bread and forgive us our indulgences,  
as we forgive those who make reality TV.  
And lead us not into vegetarianism, but deliver us some pizza,  
For thine is the meatball, the noodle and the sauce, forever and ever.

RAmen





Please note:

"A few extremist Pastafarians (a specific group called Porfons and Tifrons) believe that the [Flying Spaghetti Monster](#) is not one being, but three, and that the Pasta, the Meatballs, and the Holy Sauce, as they are called, are separate beings".

<http://wikiality.wikia.com/wiki/Pastafarian>

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Edited by Carl Ledendecker

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