

Open Invitation Epicurean Zoom - Every Wednesday 8:30pm ET, beginning May 11th

Post by "Kalosyni" of May 9, 2022 at 7:46 PM

Hi Everyone,

Our new hour long Zoom event "Open Invitation Epicurean Zoom" is starting this Wednesday 8:30pm! Please let us know by responding in this thread or in a private message to either me or Cassius if you would like to attend.

We are calling it "Open Invitation" -- as we are also opening it up to folks on Facebook (using Eventbrite for registration for Facebook members).

This is what we will be doing:

Format:

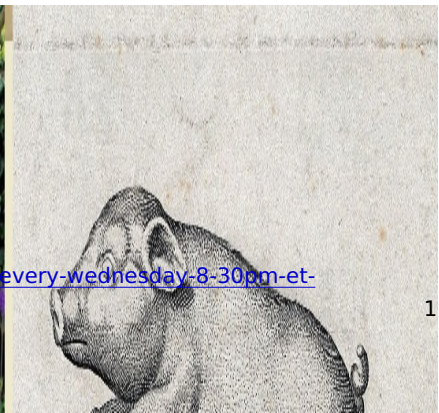
(1) Welcome: We'll go "around the table" and let each participant identify themselves as they wish, hopefully including a reference to their background and level of interest in Epicurus.

(2) Thought For The Week: Each week we will take one of the [Principal Doctrines](#) (and when we finish those, proceed to the Vatican List of Sayings) and we will have someone read the saying followed by commentary by a couple of our regulars to set the stage for further discussion. We'll then open the floor to comments by other participants (using the "raise hand" method and/or the text chat to raise an issue). We'll continue that discussion for as long as it goes but plan to cut that off around the 40 minute mark.

(3) Special Event: At the forty-minute mark we will shift to the special focus of the week, and this week will be:

Living As An Epicurean in the Modern World - food/cooking, nature/gardening, movies/music, or other hobbies as these relate to creating pleasurable living.

(4) Closing Wrap-Up - The Program coordinators will thank those who have participated and make concluding comments about what has been discussed, and what we can expect for next week (each week will have a different focus, and how people can communicate and coordinate their study of Epicurean philosophy in the meantime.



Post by “Cassius” of May 9, 2022 at 9:14 PM

No doubt there is going to be a "shakedown" period where we figure out what works best, but Kalosyni and Scott and Joshua and Martin have been very good about all sorts of suggestions and I think we have a good core to launch this as a new initiative. I hope those who have not attended in the past will consider attending and adding it to their routine. No preparation necessary, no video necessary, no recording -- no pressure of any kind - just an opportunity to "socialize."

Post by “Don” of May 9, 2022 at 11:18 PM

Sounds interesting, but I think I'm going to just stick with the 20th's when I can. That said, I sincerely applaud what you're trying to do in creating a more "regular" online Garden gathering. I'll look forward to hearing how it goes! I would say "Good luck!" but Βραχέα σοφῶ τύχη παρεμπίπτει "Only a little does Chance creep into the sage's life." 😊

Post by “isychos” of May 10, 2022 at 10:03 PM

I hope to attend, dependant on work commitments considering the time difference between US ET and Sydney time

Post by “Kalosyni” of May 11, 2022 at 7:13 AM

[isychos](#), Thank you for letting us know 😊

Post by "Cassius" of May 11, 2022 at 7:47 AM

thank you isychos - hope to see you

Post by "Kalosyni" of May 11, 2022 at 7:57 AM

Hi Everyone,

Here are some important logistics for tonight's Zoom:

We will be admitting people into the Zoom meeting based on the following:

- 1) forum names we recognize from previous Zoom meetings
- 2) those who have registered from Eventbrite (people from Facebook or non-forum members)
- 3) or forum members who have "registered" by messaging Cassius beforehand with your intended Zoom name.

If you are a forum member you do not need to use Eventbrite, but **please message Cassius beforehand with your Zoom name.**

The Zoom link for the meeting is posted in our calendar:

epicureanfriends.com/wcf/calendar/event/1693/

Tonight we will begin with Principle Doctrine 1, if you are interested in reading various translations, check out Nate's compilation:

File

[KURIAI DOXAI, a Compilation of Translations by Nathan H. Bartman \(2021\)](#)



This compilation contains 150 years worth of English translations of the "Key Doctrines" of Epicurus.

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2509-open-invitation-epicurean-zoom-every-wednesday-8-30pm-et-beginning-may-11th/>

Eikadistes

May 3, 2024 at 11:14 PM

Looking forward to seeing you tonight!

Post by “Cassius” of May 11, 2022 at 8:29 AM

Posted at Facebook:



Join us for conversation and community building

Open Invitation Epicurean Zoom

[View insights](#) 508 post reach >

 Matt Jax, Shahab Ghadiri and 14 others 1 Comment

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 **Cassius Amicus** [Author](#) [Admin](#)

Tonight (Wednesday) at 8:30 PM Eastern Time, we will have our first session in the new "Open Invitation Epicurean Zoom" format. No doubt it will take time to get off the ground and smooth out the edges, but this should be a fun and interesting way to get to know others who are interested in Epicurus. Let us know in the thread or in a private message to me if you plan to attend so we will recognize you in the zoom waiting room. Hope you can attend, and if you have any questions, be sure to ask!

Like Reply 1m

Post by “Cassius” of May 11, 2022 at 10:41 AM

Kalosyni thank you for posting that update and especially the link to Nate's list of alternate translations. Have those in front of us when we discuss each one is a very good idea.

Post by “reneliza” of May 11, 2022 at 10:41 AM

I hope to make it depending on how early the kids go to bed!

Post by “Kalosyni” of May 11, 2022 at 11:00 AM

[reneliza](#) Thank you for letting us know, and hope your schedule turns out favorable, as we look forward to meeting you 😊

Post by “isychos” of May 11, 2022 at 8:14 PM

I may be a few minutes late in joining, please let me know if this will be disruptive or not, thank you

Post by “Cassius” of May 11, 2022 at 8:20 PM

Not disruptive at all please join when you can!

Post by “Kalosyni” of May 11, 2022 at 8:20 PM

Not a problem, thanks for letting us know, I'll let Cassius know in case he hasn't seen this message yet.

Post by “Cassius” of May 11, 2022 at 9:55 PM

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2509-open-invitation-epicurean-zoom-every-wednesday-8-30pm-et-beginning-may-11th/>

Feedback on session one? I thought it was VERY successful - a great start!

Post by “Cassius” of May 11, 2022 at 9:58 PM

By my count we had eight people - meaning three visitors in addition to our regulars. We spent most of the first half hour just introducing ourselves (which should not take so long in the future) and then we spent the rest of the hour discussing principle doctrine one from Nate's compilation.

We need to set up threads for each meeting to be sure we cover any topics that people want to ask about. What else do we need to do to enhance the experience?

Post by “Joshua” of May 11, 2022 at 10:08 PM

It was very enjoyable! I need to get set up for video at some point.

Post by “Kalosyni” of May 12, 2022 at 7:47 AM

Yes it was a good meeting!

I think we might need to decide on a maximum number of people, because having a fun interactive discussion will work best with, maybe, no more than 13 people (that means the facilitator plus 12 more = 13).

Post by “Cassius” of May 12, 2022 at 8:28 AM

Having too many people is a good problem to have - much better than the reverse.

We ought to consider various ways to be sure that everyone gets to participate while at the same time making sure that the time spent is "quality" and we don't get sidetracked or have only a few have time to speak.

I think we found out last night that by having everyone introduce themselves, then say something in closing, and then try to involve everyone in the brief discussion of the principal doctrine, we consumed a full hour just with the eight people who were there.

Maybe one option is to balance Wednesday with the purpose of the Sunday session - (1) make the Sunday session weighted a little more toward "the regulars" discussing the chapter before we open the floor to discussion and (2) weight the Wednesday session more explicitly for question/answer and discussion, with maybe some of all of the topics pre-set so people will know what to expect.

A lot depends on how many people attend, and we probably need to be willing to adjust the format on the spot each night to account for the number of attendees.

According to the Mcgilivray article the texts indicate that inviting people to the 20th was a major way of introducing newer people. IMHO we don't have the luxury or situation to do that only once a month - there is too much lost ground to make up, too many challenges to getting started with regular activities, and at the same time the technology available to us makes the whole thing much easier.

I hope people will throw out any and every idea that comes to them. A key part of the picture is that everyone doesn't need to do everything - I am beginning to get stretched a little thin myself. People can set up new projects with new project leaders at any time. A large part of the purpose of this forum is to make that kind of coordination and assistance easier.

We need ideas for formatting and conducting the meeting (such as agendas, telling people to use the "raise hand" to speak, asking them to type in the chat window, etc.....) that will make them more productive.

It's already obvious that we have a time zone issue, and that it would be logical and desirable for there to be geographic groups by continent and over time more local to have the most convenient time for everyone. Today we've got maybe ten people in the world who are available to participate in something like this, but over time the goal (for someone) ought to be meetings like this by time zone, eventually state, region, etc. There doesn't need to be - and shouldn't be eventually - any kind of central planning.

Post by “Don” of May 12, 2022 at 11:06 AM

Just a thought: With all the new meetings, I'd suggest trying to make the 20th "special" and not just *another* online meeting. That date is literally the connection to the Ancient Epicurean community. I don't have any ideas currently on making it special, just raising the point for discussion.

Post by “reneliza” of May 12, 2022 at 11:18 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

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I agree and was thinking the same last night

Post by “Cassius” of May 12, 2022 at 12:07 PM

What are the possibilities for "special"?

Specially prepared online readings like Kalosyni did last time?

Let's throw out and list some possibilities because it's hard to say where to start.

I think all of us agree that we don't want to tend toward "cultish" in any way, but there ought to be ways to be "inspirational" without being cultish.

Post by “Cassius” of May 12, 2022 at 12:54 PM

In terms of "special readings" it would probably be "fair use" to play relatively short excerpts from the Charleton Griffin reading of Lucretius, so that is one source of special material that

would not take a lot of preparation, as we can easily identify especially important passages from Lucretius and listen to him if we don't have time to prepare a version ourselves.

That's an example - what are other options?

Post by “Don” of May 12, 2022 at 1:36 PM

I wouldn't advocate for something pre-recorded. People can watch/listen on their own for those.

The 20th it seems to me was/is about openness, community, welcoming, learning, and joyful celebration.

I'd keep those keywords in mind for this discussion in how to structure the 20th.

Post by “Don” of May 12, 2022 at 3:53 PM

To be honest, all the new meetings remind me (and just me, this is VERY subjective) like church attendance at Bible Study and Youth Group and Fellowship Meeting and Wednesday Service... And if you don't or can't attend, you're not a good church member.

Again, this is just me and I KNOW that was never the intention of scheduling all these. It was to increase opportunities for attendees. I just felt obligated to throw this into the mix.

PS. While I suppose I can see the humor in this initial post (Thanks, [Kalosyni](#)), I feel I should be frank in sharing I did not intend it that way. I *do* hope people will see the various virtual opportunities *as* opportunities to interact with others curious about Epicurus's philosophy. However, I can see (speaking from my perspective) how some might see the plethora of "meetings" as overwhelming or off-putting. "Do I have to attend *all* of these?" asks the curious newcomer? No, of course not! But I would just caution how they may be perceived. Two meetings a week + once a month? That can add up.

If anyone feels I'm way off-base, please feel free to let me know.

Post by “Cassius” of May 12, 2022 at 3:56 PM

That's a legitimate concern and something we need to consider in the mix, but you are right that the goal is opportunities for friendship and we need to think creatively.

Maybe the biggest issue is that the nature of the world is that people thrive best in groups for protection and for happiness, and the need for that is at least as much today as in the ancient world.

Post by “Kalosyni” of May 12, 2022 at 4:04 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

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But I think as Epicureans -- there is no "guilting" for not attending -- we know that what ever we do is chosen for the fun and enjoyment of it. So there is never any obligation to do anything.

I still say we need an "Epicurean Happy Hour" meeting -- or an "Epicurean Fun Hour" -- maybe I will decide to start one up in the future. 😊

Post by “Kalosyni” of May 12, 2022 at 4:24 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Maybe the biggest issue is that the nature of the world is that people thrive best in groups for protection and for happiness, and the need for that is at least as much today as in the ancient world.

Yes, this is especially important for people who are self-employed and/or live alone.

And also the most enjoyable time we have with others is with those with like-minded attitudes -- as possibly a greater likelihood of giving and receiving genuine empathy and encouragement.

Also, there is Covid, which has changed things, and there are less in-person meetings/events. I notice when I click on websites to see what is happening, and there are a certain number of businesses or events that haven't yet gotten back up and running again. And I see in the news that cases are going up again. In my own family several people dealing with a persistent cough.

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Hopefully it is all much more mild, and stays mild and easily recoverable.