

BEST EVENTS - NASHVILLE

Nashville: Evolution Weekend: What Does it Mean to be EVOLVED?

by [Maurice Moore](#) on Jan 25, 2015



February 15, 2015 at Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Nashville, TN.

As part of the world-wide celebration of **Evolution Weekend and the birthday of Charles Darwin**, anthropologist Mike Kohut will speak at the Sunday service at **Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist Congregation**, 374 Hicks Road (Bellevue) in **Nashville** on FEBRUARY 15. The service is at 11, discussion at 9:45, lunch at 12:15.

Mike Kohut is a doctoral candidate in cultural anthropology at Vanderbilt University. He spent more than two years of intensive fieldwork studying attitudes about and understandings of **evolution in Tennessee and their influence on the development and implementation of science standards for teaching the topic in Tennessee middle schools**. Mike is interested in what the debate over **evolution and creationism says about larger trends in public attitudes toward science and authority**.

“For my talk on February 15th, I am planning to examine what it means to be **evolved**. As things stand, around half of the American public accepts the evidence presented by modern science and chooses to believe that humankind **evolved from non-human animals**. At the same time, the other half chooses to deny that evidence and believe the opposite. Efforts to persuade the doubters through reason and evidence are ineffective, particularly at a time when people can easily find alternative claims that confirm their own beliefs. Rather than focus on the evidence then, my talk will consider what there is to gain by accepting our **evolutionary origins**. If we do not want to “accept” our fate as **evolved apes**, what reasons do we have to celebrate it?”