
The Theosophical Society in Detroit

Chartered in 1916 as a Branch of the Theosophical Society of America



January – February 2008

We are happy to continue movies and discussions on Friday nights.
Movies will be presented, followed by thoughtful open discussions.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. ***Movies begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.*** From 6:30 to 6:55 is time for socializing, browsing through the bookstore and library and enjoying light refreshments.

- Jan 4** **Movie – The Web of Life**
Jeffrey Mishlove interviews Fritjof Capra (physicist and systems theorist) on new approaches to the understanding of living systems, incorporating systems theory, complexity theory, chaos theory, and the Gaia hypothesis.
- Jan 11** **Movie – The Remarkable Life of Colonel Henry Steele Olcott**
Henry Steel Olcott was the first International President of the Theosophical Society and served in this office for 32 years. During his travels around the world, he was able to establish rapport with people of different religions and walks of life.
- Jan 18** **Movie – Meetings with Remarkable Men: Gurdjieff's Search for Hidden Knowledge**
This movies is based upon Georges Ivanovich Gurdjieff's book, this is the story of his search for life's meaning in the Middle East. Gurdjieff had a strong influence on many modern mystics, artists, writers, and thinkers. He is most notable for introducing what some refer to as "The Work," connoting *work on oneself*.
- Jan 25** **Movie - The Best of Alan Watts**
Spend an hour viewing the best sequences from seven films of Watts produced by the Hartley Foundation. Alan Watts was a philosopher, writer, speaker, and expert in comparative religion. He was best known as an interpreter and popularizer of Asian philosophies for a Western audience.
- Feb 1** **Movie – Hierarchy of Earth's Adepts: Parts 1-2**
Ascended Masters, in various descendants and offshoots of theosophy are spiritually-enlightened beings who in past incarnations were ordinary humans, but who have undergone a process of spiritual transformation. This movie shows a Theosophical view of the great masters or teachers of the ancient wisdom.
- Feb 8** **Movie – Love and Pleasure: Dialogue #12**
Jiddu Krishnamurti and Allan Anderson discuss love and pleasure.. Is love pleasure? This and other questions surrounding our notions of love are explored.
- Feb 15** **Movie – The World of Buckminster Fuller**
Did you know that Buckminster Fuller was the second President of Mensa (the largest, oldest, and most famous high-IQ society in the world)? Enjoy this close-up view of a Renaissance man who sought the principles of nature to create a sustainable life on earth.
- Feb 22** **Movie – A Spirit of Crazy Horse**
The historical Sioux referred to the Great Sioux Nation as the Oceti Sakowin, meaning "Seven Council Fires". PBS Home Video and James Locker presents the history of the Sioux Indian people and their modern struggle for survival..
- Feb 29** **Movie – In Search of the Holy Grail**
Robert Johnson relates medieval myth to 20th century psychology, masculinity, femininity, and dreams.

SPECIAL EVENTS, CLASSES AND PROGRAMS

The Flowering Tree Lodge

Debbie Mast is co-leader of the Flowering Tree Lodge in Michigan and the founder of the Women's Hoop, a ceremonial group for women, now in its sixteenth year. Her work is inspired by her vision of women and men working together to re-create the world.

The Flowering Tree Lodge is a teaching lodge of The Sweet Medicine Sun Dance tradition. This tradition was founded in 1250 B.C. by medicine women and men from tribes across the Americas. Calling themselves Twisted Hairs, they braided together *knowledge that works* from every direction on the Wheel of Life. Over time they developed tremendous amounts of knowledge about energy, ceremonial alchemy, healing techniques, communication with nature and controlled dreaming. The Twisted Hairs opened their teachings to non-natives in the 1970's. The local Sweet Medicine community gathers to learn and share together, as they reach for their highest potential.

This group meets at our building several times throughout the year. Extensive information, including fees and charges, introductory meetings and associated study groups is available at www.floweringtreelodge.net. People interested in learning more about the Sweet Medicine tradition are invited to come to monthly open houses held March-September. These include a sweat lodge ceremony.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Debbie Mast (248) 414-5376, for details.

Order of International Co-Freemasonry, Le Droit Humain (Pre-registration required)

Open to both men and women, the focus is on the spiritual aspect of Freemasonry. Rituals, ceremonies, symbols, and myth are used to depict universal truths, and to help members understand where they have come from, who they are now, and where they are going. In this new millennium, the Order has a special contribution to make to both the individual and society. Its openness to women, and its emphasis on basic human rights, tolerance, and understanding for all people and all religious views, make it an important vehicle for men and women to work together in a spirit of equality and mutual respect for the betterment of the world.

Basic qualifications include: at least 21 years old; "free," not bound to a particular set of beliefs, but open to growing and learning; striving to live a life of self-improvement and service.

This group meets monthly at our building. For further information, including how to apply for membership, contact Mary Jo Kokochak, 517) 592-9053; e-mail mjkokochak@aol.com.

Esoteric Lecture Series

David Zimmerman will be conducting monthly Saturday evening classes. Classes will focus on esoteric subjects for serious students. Classes start at 7:00 p.m. A \$5.00 donation is requested at the door. Water and snacks will be supplied. For additional information contact David Zimmerman at (248) 375-0909.



Plant a Tree

Theosophical Society in America national headquarters in Wheaton, Illinois

Fierce storms destroyed many beautiful trees at the TS national headquarters in 2007. Planting trees reduce global warming. You can participate in restoration efforts by donating funds to plant a tree.

As a result of extensive research the following decisions were made regarding planting trees:

- trees will be no smaller than 2 inches in width, as anything smaller usually does not survive well
- trees will have a 1 - 2 year warranty (to get a warranty, it is necessary for the nursery to do the planting)
- tree tags will be available (cost is approximately \$12.00)

The cost for one tree is \$350. In realizing this is a rather large cost, we are offering two options for our members.

- 1) For a single donation of \$350 we will plant a tree and include member's name, and any message they want on the tree tag. (e.g., "In memory of", "Donated by the Smith family", etc).
- 2) For other donations, we will pool the money together until we have enough to purchase a tree. For example, member A donates \$150, member B donates \$100, and member C donates \$100. We have 3 members donating smaller amounts which all contribute to the cost of the tree. We then would put all the members' names on the one tree tag and list only their names.

We hope that you are able to contribute to our efforts as we start replanting the property. We have just about finished our clean-up from the tornado back in August and the grounds are feeling more peaceful each day. Thank you for considering us with your donation!

In order to give a boost to the tree planting effort at the Olcott National Center, we at Detroit Branch have passed a resolution to collect and match donations received through our account. Therefore, if you send us a check for \$50.00 (for example) toward the replacement of a tree, we will send a check to headquarters for \$100. Collections will continue throughout the period of January-April, 2008.

Please complete the form below, tear off and return the bottom portion of this page along with your check to enable us to give proper credit for your donation. Send to: 27745 Woodward Avenue Berkley, Michigan 48072-0906

Donation for Theosophical Society in America tree replacement trust

\$ _____

Name of sender _____

In memory of (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (_____) _____

e-mail address _____

Your message _____

Ongoing Activities

MONDAYS: 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH 7:00 PM

OCEAN OF THEOSOPHY STUDY

In the early 1890s William Q. Judge recognized the need for a book on theosophy that could be readily understood by all. The *Ocean* provides a concise yet comprehensive survey of the basic tenets of theosophy. Written with the beginner in mind, it clarifies such topics as: the sevenfold nature of man; reincarnation and karma; dangers of psychic practices and the pitfalls of pseudo-occultism; earth's sevenfold being; cosmic and terrestrial cycles; after death states; the existence of highly advanced human beings; and many more. This class that is open to all can be joined at any time due to the stand alone character of the material. If you are interested, please call Marina Sionov at (248) 545-8553 or (248) 545-1961.

TUESDAYS: 7:30 PM TO 9:30 PM

MEMBERS STUDY

Esoteric Christianity

Theosophy means literally Divine Wisdom. Often thought of as a diluted version of Hinduism, Buddhism or Taoism, it is no less Esoteric Christianity, belonging equally to all religions, exclusively to none. So Annie Besant states in her forward to *Esoteric Christianity*, the splendid little volume that is to be the subject of this year's members' study. Gary Contesti and Daya Kujansuu combine their talents in leading us through the intriguing writings of one of the Society's most prolific writers and its second President.

WEDNESDAYS: 7:30 – 9:00 PM SHARP

OPEN DISCUSSION

Don Elwert continues the grand tradition of the Wednesday night open forum with occasional assist from long time seeker and TS member Parke Carrier. Meetings involve a wide ranging exploration of theosophical writings and ideas, with frequent forays into Christian Mysticism, astrology and even shades of Rosicrucian thought. Discussion tends to be lively and informative, and attendees have always offered enthusiastic reviews

THURSDAYS: 7:30 – 9:00 PM

MEDITATION CIRCLE

The meditators' support circle emphasizes meditation as a way to be with Spirit and in Spirit. There are no shortcuts or crash courses, no instant mysticism. We sense in stillness with others a great linkage and strengthening. We meet to support each others daily meditation. Simple instructions and much encouragement are also there for anyone just beginning. Typically, we begin with a short reading and several minutes of contemplative music, leading into two thirty minute silences. These are broken by a five interval. Participants may leave during this time or move about quietly in a meditative walk. The ninety minutes together ends with quiet conversation. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early. For information call Ron at (248) 280-4711.

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27745 Woodward Avenue
Berkley, Michigan 48072-0906

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

