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# The Theosophical Society in Detroit

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

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## March 2007

### March 2 **Canticle to the Cosmos Video Series**

*Sex, Death & Dreams (Seventh in a series of 12)*

Mara Radzwickas and Marina Sionov

As we will throughout this program year, we are once again beginning the new month with the next video offering in this Brian Swimme series: The Greatest Epic in the known universe is the story of life on earth. Here are the major events in this drama and the central principles governing billions of years of biological creativity.

Mara and Marina have proven exceptionally adept in leading the discussion following the formal viewing. The ever growing audience has demonstrated a great interest and enthusiasm for the subject. *You won't want to miss a single viewing, so mark your calendars now for the first Friday of every month from now through June of 2007.*

### March 9 **A Universal Philosophy**

Daniel J. Sheppard

This metaphysicist will construct a potential model regarding the whole of reality. This model explores the location and interrelationship of the four realms of reality, namely: the realm of the tangible, the intangible, the void and the un-manifestible. The process requires an open mind, the abandonment of the concept 'impossible' and reliance upon the mutual cooperation of science, reason, and ancient wisdom. The final product: The emergence of a universal philosophy. This speaker encourages all questions. Come and enjoy the fun!

Daniel J. Shepard has spent 30 years as a student/teacher of science and mathematics. A free thinker, self taught metaphysician, author of 8 books and two web sites regarding metaphysics, systems theology and cosmology. Daniel has been a frequent participant in our Wednesday night forums with Don Elwert, where he has challenged the limits of the group, to the delight of all.

### March 16 **Canticle to the Cosmos Video Series**

*The Nature of the Human (Eighth in a series of 12)*

Mara Radzwickas and Marina Sionov

Recent work in mathematical cosmology and evolutionary biology offers a fresh vision on the purpose and role of human beings on Earth, yet a vision similar to those original insights inherent in our wisdom traditions.

### March 23 **The Golden Section: Nature's Greatest Secret**

Scott A. Olsen, Ph.D.

Professor of philosophy & comparative religion from Central Florida Community College, and student of the ancient wisdom, Dr. Scott Olsen will present "Nature's Golden Section". Olsen will discuss some of the significant puzzles, people, and transformational experiences that led to the deep insights revealed in his award winning book. Books will be available at \$10.00 with a book signing to follow the talk.

The Golden Section: Nature's Greatest Secret" is the result of 35 years of research and a one-year sabbatical from his college. It explains nature's mystery surrounding the Golden Section, the mathematical ratio that Olsen says is the building block or modular of all nature.

**March 24 — Special Seminar by Dr. Scott Olsen (see flyer for details)**

### March 30 **An Intermystical Bridge: Guidelines for Interreligious Understanding**

Ronald Leinweber

A genuinely spiritual person, passionately committed to inner development, comes to see that life is a spiritual journey for all. If mysticism means direct, immediate experience of the mystery of the eternal in the midst of the temporal, none of us dare remain spiritually illiterate. Everything is sacred or a manifestation of the hidden, divine mystery. Tonight we will expand such thoughts and discuss some critical guidelines that can provide a strong foundation for fruitful, sympathetic dialogue among all the faith traditions.

Ron Leinweber has been a member and served in our lodge since 1992. He is a retired teacher, with degrees in literature and theology, and a commissioned Benedictine oblate. He also has undergone training in meditation and keeps to a daily practice. Ron recently has been commissioned as a spiritual director. He leads our Thursday evening meditation circle.

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Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Lecture begins promptly at 8:00 p.m. From 7:00 to 7:45 is time for socializing, browsing through the bookstore and library and enjoying light refreshments.

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## April 2007

### April 6 **Canticle to the Cosmos Video Series**

*Fire in the Mind. 9th in a series of 12.*

Mara Radzwickas and Marina Sionov.

Human language, art, culture is the most powerful and dangerous invention in the past one and a half billion years of Earth's adventure. The fundamental relationship between DNA and human codings is probed to show how the planet's destiny is now woven into human decision.

Mara Radzwickas recently retired from an advertising career, and is now enjoying a life of travel, study and spiritual pursuits, interspersed with a periodic return to the business world in a consulting capacity.

### April 13 **Unit of the Universe**

Mike Mongan

The Unit of the Universe is a deceptively simple system of geometry developed by the speaker over several decades. Mr. Mongan uses paper circles and cellophane tape to demonstrate the system as it progresses from line to sphere. We will build examples and use the result to explore the physical nature of matter energy. (Some audience participation is welcome). He will also discuss why this is not science although it could still be true.

Mike Mongan is a geometry researcher by avocation. He regularly gives demonstrations for math and science teachers on the educational uses of soap bubbles. He is a design engineer for a living and an actor for fun. He received his BA in History and Psychology from Wayne State a long time ago. His website, [www.m2solids.com](http://www.m2solids.com) offers a series of his articles on geometry and science free to the public. His "Unit of the Universe" series explores time, space, matter and energy with paper circles and cellophane tape.

### April 20 **Surrendering to Truth**

Tim Boyd

It is a common assumption that the ageless wisdom teachings lead to self transformation. But even the highest quality information does not transform. Something more is needed. The quality of heart and mind which we call surrender is a necessary catalyst, revealing the deeper meanings of the wisdom teachings.

Tim is a former Vice President of the Theosophical Society in America. He co-produced, narrated and conducted interviews for the Eternal Quest radio series, broadcast on stations in the U.S and Canada. He is a founding member of a spiritual community which was active for more than 25 years. It was situated in Chicago's inner city in what had been a deteriorating urban area. The group established organic food gardens on vacant lots, purchased and renovated numerous buildings in the area, and placed bee hives on the roofs of buildings. He has lectured and conducted workshops throughout the U.S and in Asia. He currently serves as President of the Theosophical Order of Service.

### April 27 **Self-Awareness/Stress Management**

Jodi Sheppard

What does it mean to have Self Awareness? What are ways to manage stress? Participate in a group discussion. Correlate thoughts, ideas, experiences and create new self promoted concepts for being true to oneself. Share in basic exercises to determine your personal level of growth, need & interest in self awareness and stress management.

Josephine' (Jodi) Sheppard is a Wholistic Support Counselor, Life Coach, Spiritual Mentor, Self Development Facilitator, and Wellness Educator. She has more than 22 years total experience in health care and public service. She began her private practice in Complementary therapies in 1994. Jodi values aiding individuals in their process to personal growth and development in learning to "live purposefully" and to their fullest potential. Dr. Jodi can be reached through her website at: <http://alternativesupport.net> or calling 810.610.5822.

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Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Lecture begins promptly at 8:00 p.m. From 7:00 to 7:45 is time for socializing, browsing through the bookstore and library and enjoying light refreshments.

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## 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](http://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](mailto:mjkokochak@aol.com).

### Esoteric Lecture Series

David Zimmerman will be conducting monthly Saturday evening classes. Classes will focus on esoteric subjects for serious students. Dates have been reserved through June, and may well be extended to the end of the year.

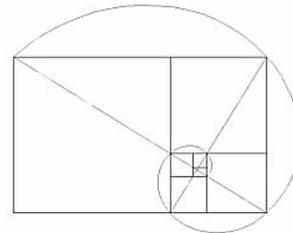
*March 24*      **The Golden Section: the Decoding of Nature**

Special Seminar by Dr. Scott Olsen

Noon to 4:00 p.m. (breaks included)

Dr. Scott A. Olsen will unveil the deeper mysteries of the Divine Proportion in Nature.

See flyer for details.



*April 14*      **Esoteric Psychology and the Seven Rays.\***

Esoteric Psychology is based on two major precepts. First there is a cosmic force conveying seven systems of energy into our solar system that affect the nature, behavior and evolution of all forms within the Ring-Pass-Not of this system. Second, spiritual qualities emerging from the immortal component of man's structure affect his behavior and modify the contributing factors of his heredity equipment and the environment into which it is thrust.

A \$5.00 donation is requested at the door. Water and snacks will be supplied. For further information contact David Zimmerman at (248) 375-0909.

(\*Subject to change without notice)

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## Ongoing Activities

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

#### **KEY TO THEOSOPHY STUDY**

This monthly study group is now entering its second year. The question/answer format of this perennial Blavatsky standard is an excellent primer for theosophists at all stages of development. 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**

##### *Man the Measure of all Things*

Gary Contesti and Richard Brooks are jointly facilitating the study of this beautifully descriptive commentary on the Stanzas of Dzyan. Richard's command of the Sanskrit terminology makes short work of the language struggle and Gary's ease in metaphor and poetic expression brings the natural balance to this exciting exploration of man and the cosmos. Members will find this the perfect entry point to any serious study of The Secret Doctrine.

### 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: 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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## ***The Theosophical Society in Detroit***

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

