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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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## May – June 2008

We are happy to continue movies, lectures, and discussions on Friday nights.  
All programs are followed by thoughtful open discussions.

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Doors open at 6:30 p.m. **Programs 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.

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- May 2**     **Movie – HPB's Diagram of Meditation**  
John Algeo presents a Theosophical view of meditation. HPB's Diagram of Meditation is based on some of the most fundamental esoteric principles about the nature of Deity and Being. 1992.
- May 9**     **Movie – Albert Einstein: How I See the World**  
Narrated by William Hurt, this program presents a moving overview of Einstein and his work. Einstein's theories on the nature of time and space profoundly affected the human conception of the physical world and set the foundations for many of the scientific advances of the twentieth century. Directed by Richard Kroehling. PBS Home Video 1991.
- May 16**    **Movie – The Mahatmas and Their Letters.**  
Joy Mills discusses the historical background of *The Mahatma Letters to A.P. Sinnet* and their impact on the Theosophical Society. 1989.
- May 23**    **Movie – Awaken to the Eternal**  
*Nisargadatta Maharaj--A Journey of Self Discovery* This sage from Bombay discusses truth and freedom. Includes interviews with Jack Kornfield, Jean Dunn, and others. 1995.
- May 30**    **Movie – Introduction to Zen Meditation**  
This video gives instruction in Zen sitting and mind-breath exercises – with John Daido Looi, the founder, abbot, and spiritual leader of Zen Mountain Monastery. Dharma Communications. 1991.
- June 6**     **Movie – A New Mind for a New Century**  
The 2000 Founders address, given by Radha Burnier at the 114th Annual Meeting and Summer School of the Theosophical Society in America, explores the necessity to consider our state of mind and to decide if it is one that will be conducive to a harmonious future. The speaker suggests that genuine human spiritual transformation can only come about through the renewal of our minds. 2000.

Join our special guest George Catlin, Ph.D.  
on Friday, June 13 at 7 pm.

George Catlin, Ph.D., was a member of the Findhorn Community in Scotland and a founding director of the School of Spiritual Science in Shutesbury, Massachusetts. He has taught and lectured on the Ageless Wisdom Teachings for more than 25 years. He studied extensively at the University of Massachusetts where he earned his Ph.D. in Psychology followed by an academic career as a Professor at Carthage College and Amherst. He is a frequent guest on radio and television talk shows – presenting a balanced view of a most unusual story. He says, "**The single most important event happening on the planet today is the gradual emergence of the Masters of Wisdom into the modern world.**"

Dr. Catlin is the author of two books on the spiritual path and the approach of the Teachers: *The Way to Happiness* (2004) and his new book, *The Long Journey Home*, just published this year.

## 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. 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.



With the completion of our program year, we will soon form a committee to make selections for the 2008-2009 season — starting in September. Most of the videos played here during the past several months were supplied to us by our headquarters in Wheaton, Illinois (selected from the catalogue). We are fortunate that there is a wealth of materials available, which meet the standards we have set for our public programming. If you are interested in serving on the Selection Committee or would like to suggest your favorite videos, we would be very pleased to have you join us. We expect to meet on an evening in late June or early July, to establish the line up for next season and assign volunteers to preview and facilitate. If you are interested, please speak to our President, Gary Contesti or to any Board Member.



***Our books are sold to members just above cost!***

Below is a sample listing of some of the books we offer at the Theosophical Society in Detroit.

### **Books by and about Helena Petrovna Blavatsky**

<b>Book Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>List Price</b>	<b>Member Price</b>
Isis Unveiled vol I& II	HPB	TC	\$21	\$14
Isis Unveiled vol I& II	HPB	TUP	\$41.95	\$30
Isis Unveiled vol I& II	HPB	Quest	\$36	\$24
Secret Doctrine 2 Vol+ Index Set	HPB	TUP	\$60	\$42
Index to the Secret Doctrine	HPB	TC	\$6	\$6
Secret Doctrine (Abridgement version)	HPB (edited by Preston&Humphrys)	Quest	\$12	\$8
Invitation to the Secret Doctrine	HPB	TUP	\$8.95	\$6
Secret Doctrine Commentary- Stanzas I-IV	HPB	TUP	\$8.95	\$5.50
Studies in Occultism	HPB	TUP	\$10.95	\$8.00
Studies in Occultism			\$16.95	\$12
Key to Theosophy (abridged version)	HPB	TPS	\$10	\$6
Key to Theosophy	HPB	TC	\$7	\$5
Key to Theosophy	HPB	TPH	\$20.95	\$14
Letters of HPB to Sinnett	HPB	TUP	\$23.95	\$15
Theosophical Articles 3 vol	HPB	TC	\$48(set)	\$31(set)
Letters of HPB Vol I	HPB	Quest	\$29.95	\$20
HPB in memory of	by her pupils	TPS	\$21.95	\$14
Modern Panarion	HPB	TC	\$15	\$9
Theosophical Glossary	HPB	TC	\$17	\$11
HPB Speaks Vol I & II	HPB	TC	\$18	\$10
HPB Teaches	HPB	TPH	\$19.95	\$12
Foundations of Esoteric Philosophy	HPB	TPH	\$5	\$3
Voice of the Silence	HPB	TC	\$8	\$5
The Voice of the Silence	HPB	TUP	\$8	\$5.50
The Voice of the Silence	HPB		\$13	\$9
Gems from the East	HPB	TUP	\$16	\$10
HPB Collected Writings Vol I- XV	HPB	TPH	\$450 (set)	\$315 (set)

#### **Publishers**

TPH	Theosophical Publishing House,
TPS	Theosophical Publishing Society.
TUP	Theosophical University Press
TC	Theosophy Company

**Books make great gifts!**



## 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: 7:00 PM – 8:30 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.

## ***THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN DETROIT***

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

