
The Theosophical Society in Detroit

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



September – October 2007

We are happy to introduce a new format for 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.

- Sept 14** **Movie - Baraka**
Director: Ron Fricke
The title *Baraka* is a word that means blessing in many different languages. The movie was filmed in 24 countries. It contains no dialogue. Instead of a story or plot, the film uses themes to present new perspectives and evoke emotion purely through cinema.
- Sept 21** **Movie - Rumi, Poet of Heart**
Director: Haydn Reiss
A look into the life and poetry of thirteenth-century Sufi mystic Jelaluddin Rumi. This is accomplished through an intimate dialog with Coleman Barks, his English language translator. The work also features the narration of actress Debra Winger and sensitive observations by scholars such as Huston Smith, Robert Bly, Simone Fattal, Deepak Chopra and the Sufi mystic Sheik Jelaluddin Loras.
- Sept 28** **Movie - Alchemy: The Art of Spiritual Transformation**
Author: Deepak Chopra
Deepak Chopra explores the process of transforming everyday feelings and desires into the realization of everything that you can become. Martin Sheen and Robert Guillaume as Arthur and Merlin, dramatically interpret the classic story of King Arthur's search for the Holy Grail. Joanna Cassidy narrates this mystical and spiritual journey.
- Oct 5** **Two Movies –**
- **Mandalas: Visions of Heaven and Earth**
Mirtala. An odyssey of spirit through the world of matter, uniting with one's higher Self.
 - **Mandalas: Luminous Symbols for Healing**
Judith Cornell. The author is interviewed about her work with mandalas and how they help deal with psycho-physical ailments.
- Oct 12** **Movie - The Essence of Theosophy**
Joy Mills and John Algeo. What is Theosophy? This movie attempts to define the essence of Theosophical teachings.
- Oct 19** **Movie - The Mystery of Chi**
Bill Moyers and Harvard Med School doctor David Eisenberg go to China to study the ancient healing art of "Chi."
- Oct 26** **Movie – The Mystical Life**
As part five of the Joseph Campbell's Mythos series, this video explores the connection between Christianity and the ancient mystery cults of Greece.

***Did you know?
Books are sold to members just above cost!***

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

Esoteric Christianity

Annie Besant (edited by Richard Smoley)

\$16.95 (\$11.00 TS members' price)

The object of this book is to suggest certain lines of thought as to the deep truths underlying Christianity, truths generally overlooked, and only too often denied. –

From the new foreword by Richard Smoley

Esoteric Christianity
will be studied in the
Tuesday Members
Study sessions.

Annie Besant, renowned esotericist and Theosophist, asserts in this title that there is a hidden or esoteric truth underlying all religions, a truth so deep and secret that until revealed we cannot truly reach the Divine. While many scholars, theologians and followers of conventional Christianity may not believe in such uniformity, people of all faiths can agree there are unknown elements of the Divine we all seek that are yet to be revealed. *Esoteric Christianity* shows us this hidden truth that is lacking from the traditional exoteric teachings of Christianity: the Divine does not come from an external, outside source; it is something that can only be found within ourselves. ISBN 978-0-8356-0849-7 (Paperback)

The Secret Doctrine

\$25.00 (\$18.00 TS members' price)

In 1888, eleven years after the appearance of *Isis Unveiled*, H.P.B. completed and published *The Secret Doctrine* - "The Synthesis of Science, Religion and Philosophy." The systematic character of this work is revealed by the subjects treated at length in its pages: Cosmogogenesis, Cosmic Evolution, Anthropogenesis, the Evolution of Symbolism, the Archaic Symbolism of the World-Religions, Science and the Secret Doctrine Contrasted. The Secret Doctrine differs from *Isis* in that it deliberately unfolds a specific teaching about the nature of things. In the Introductory pages of Volume I, H.P. Blavatsky wrote: *The Secret Doctrine* is not a treatise, or a series of vague theories, but contains all that can be given out to the world in this century." *The Secret Doctrine* is, therefore, the basic source of the Theosophical teachings in this cycle. Facsimile edition, two volumes in one. ISBN 0-938998-00-5 (Hardcover)

Eleusian & Bacchic Mysteries

Translated by Thomas Taylor.

\$16.00 (\$13.00 TS members' price)

Secret Mysteries of ancient Greece. Annotated by Dr. Alexander Wilder, notes from *The Secret Doctrine* by H. P. Blavatsky added, new marginal notes, references, appendix, glossary. Reprint by "The Platonist" scholar so loved philosophy. Publication 1981. ISBN 0913510297 (Hardcover)

The Nature of Substance: Spirit and Matter

Dr. Rudolf Hauschka, (Translated by Marjorie Spock, Translated by M.T. Richards) Rudolf Steiner Press

\$29.95 (\$25.00 TS members' price)

The Nature of Substance is generally accessible. The author deliberately avoids technical terms and academic style in favor of vivid descriptions and lively discussions. His fascinating study takes in many substances, with chapters on plants, animals, oils, proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, metals, carbon, oxygen, poisons, high dilutions, and much more. ISBN 1855841223 (Paperback)

Iamblichus: On the Mysteries, Theosophical & Religion

Translated by Thomas Taylor

\$25.00 (\$20.00 TS members' price)

10 sections with additional notes, a 7-page glossary of citations, a bibliography of Taylor's work, a biography, -bibliographical glossary. Green Hardcover, reprint. 400 pages. Reference. Publication 1984. ISBN 0913510513(Hardcover)

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. A \$5.00 donation is requested at the door. Water and snacks will be supplied.

September **No September lecture.** David will be giving a lecture as part of his contribution to the Phenomenews Body, Mind, Spirit festival

October 27 **Scientific Proof of the Permanent Atom.** David will explain the relationship of the new scientific discoveries as they apply to the ancient wisdom teachings concerning the permanent atom.

For further information contact David Zimmerman at (248) 375-0909.

Tribute to Dr. Richard Brooks

Richard Brooks is a professor emeritus and chair of the Department of Philosophy at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. As a Theosophist of more than fifty years, he served on the national board for many years. His specialties are logic, Indic and Chinese philosophy, and parapsychology.

We appreciate Richard's long standing support of the Theosophical Society in Detroit. He served on the National Board for many years and served as visiting instructor at the School of the Wisdom in Adyar, India. As co-instructor of members study classes, he frequently delights us with tales of well known theosophists he has befriended over the years. Richard is a prolific author of many books and he has published a recent article in the current national Theosophical journal, *the Quest*.

His contributions have been pivotal to the success of the Detroit lodge.

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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

