



The Theosophical Society in Detroit

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

November - December 2005

Welcome to another season at the TS in Detroit!

*Our prayers and supplications are vain,
unless to potential words
we add potent acts, and make the aura
which surrounds each one of us so pure
and divine that the God within us
may act outwardly...*

— H.P. BLAVATSKY

At some point in our evolution to our higher selves, spiritual practices become imperative to transcend the lower worlds and reach higher truths. While knowledge and study are essential in spiritual life, it is the application of spiritual ideals in our daily living that truly elevates the meaning of our lives.

Our programs in November and December will look at specific spiritual practices from different traditions.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Welcome and Ongoing Activities
- 2-3** Public Programs
- 4** Books! Books! Books!

Visit www.tsdetroit.org
for more information

Ongoing Activities

BOOK STUDY GROUPS

Key To Theosophy – By Helena Blavatsky

First published in 1889, the Key is especially valuable for its extended discussion of what happens after death and for the analysis of man's psychological nature. Supplementary materials from John Algeo, the past President of the Theosophical Society of America, are also available.

Two study groups meet at different times:

- **SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 P.M.**
FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT MARINA: (248) 956-3419
- **EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:30 P.M.**

INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON MYSTICISM

Don Elwert leads a study of a wide-range of theosophical writings from various traditions and perspectives. No charge, all are welcome!

EVERY WEDNESDAY: 7:30 - 9.00 P.M.

MEDITATION CIRCLE

Ron Leinweber leads the meditation circle using brief readings and sharing to affirm the richness of meditation. There is music, 20-minute silent "sits" to touch and share the power in and beyond us. Ron can be contacted at (248) 280-4711. Please arrive a few minutes early.

EVERY THURSDAY: 7:30 - 9.00 P.M.

LIBRARY AND BOOKSTORE HOURS

NEW DAYTIME HOURS

EVERY FRIDAY — 10:00 A.M TO 3:00 P.M.

Relax, browse, study
in our lending library

November 2005

11/4 Simple Spirituality

Tim Boyd

In our times we have access to the spiritual teachings all the world's people. This situation is both good and bad. The fact that there is so much information available has created a tendency for today's aspirant to develop a spiritual practice which has great breadth, but little depth. In this talk we will seek to simplify - to identify the foundations for a deep and lasting spiritual practice.

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, currently broadcast on stations throughout the U.S and Canada. He is a founding member of a spiritual community, which was active in Chicago's inner city for more than 25 years. He has lectured and conducted workshops throughout the U.S.

11/5 Practicing Truth

SATURDAY 10 - NOON

Seminar open to all!

Potluck breakfast at 8.30 a.m.

Tim Boyd will speak on how to "grasp" the ultimate Truth that eludes us. In this session we will explore ways to open ourselves to this experience.

11/11 Meditations from Shankara: Ode to the South-Facing Form

Ron Leinweber

It is difficult for spiritual wisdom to flow into a drifting mind. We can be helped to develop an attentive mind through regular meditation. This evening, we will reflect on a series of nine-hymn meditations called "The Meditation on the South-Facing Form," by Shri Shankaracharya, who taught ways of acquiring a mature, spiritually evolved mind. Through such practices, a new state of awareness can be experienced in union with the Glorious Presence.

Ron Leinweber leads the Thursday evening meditation at the Theosophical Society. He is a life-long spiritual seeker and a student of world religions. A member of the lodge for many years, he is also a trained meditator. A retired high school and college teacher of literature, he currently leads three meditation groups in the Detroit area. He is a commissioned Benedictine oblate, who is inclusive in his study and has high regard for the essential truth in all spiritual traditions. Ron is currently completing an internship leading to certification as a spiritual director.

11/ 18 Buddhist Practices That Help Us Lose Fear In Our Lives

Rev. Wetara Mahinda

Rev. Mahinda will talk on the role of fear in our lives in general, some observations on specific instances of damage that it is likely to cause us, and some applicable guidelines to reduce fear in the light of Buddhist teachings.

Rev. Mahinda, who is currently on leave in the U.S., is a senior lecturer in the Department of Archaeology in Sri Lanka. He has spoken on several topics in Buddhism including Buddha Dharma, Buddhist psychotherapy, and Buddhist problem-solving at Kaula Lumpur, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, India, Germany, and the U.S.

11/25 The Two Hands of God

Dr. Richard Brooks

The so-called "problem of evil" has been one of the major concerns for Judeo-Christian theology: how could an omnipotent, omni-benevolent Being create a world in which diseases and natural disasters regularly kill, disable, or economically disadvantage thousands of apparently innocent people every year? Dr. Brooks contends that orthodox theology cannot satisfactorily answer this question, but that theosophy can.

Dr. Richard Brooks is an emeritus professor of philosophy from Oakland University where he taught a variety of subjects for 33 years. He has been a member of The Theosophical Society for over 50 years and has lectured widely in several countries as well as throughout the U.S. In Fall of 1998, he served as the Director of the School of Wisdom at the International Headquarters of the TS in India and has been asked to return as Director again next year.

The Theosophical Society – Mission

The Theosophical Society of Detroit encourages open-minded inquiry into world religions, philosophy, science, and the arts in order to understand the wisdom of the ages, respect the unity of all life, and help people explore spiritual self-transformation.

December 2005

12/2 Taoism: Philosophy or Religion?

Winnie Wong

Winnie will speak about the Taoism (the path), which emphasizes consciousness (Tao) as the source of all beings, provide a short review of the Tao Te Ching (The Law of Virtue and its Way), and the influence of Taoism today.

Winnie Wong, a Chinese American, is currently a second year Intern in the Ignatian Spirituality Program in Manresa, Bloomfield Hills and will be commissioned as a Spiritual Director upon completion of this program. Winnie speaks English and four Chinese dialects, including Mandarin and Cantonese. Winnie has taught high school and college students, and retired recently as an adjunct Professor of Theology. A free-lance interpreter and translator in metropolitan Detroit, one of her favorite hobbies is translating Chinese poetry. Winnie is a mother of five children and grandmother of three. She is a Roman Catholic and a Christian Meditator, who studies the tradition of the Tao in ancient China.

12/9 Dhikr — A Heart-warming Sufi Practice

Denise Salaam Marsico

Denise will speak on the practice of "Dhikr" or remembrance as a way to bring us back to God and the highest truth. She will also show us how to open, cleanse, and purify our hearts so that we can know ourselves deeply. The Dhikr is a spiritual practice that nourishes the soul in Sufi Islam.

Denise Salaam Marsico has been practicing Sufism for over four years, and is a Master level Sufi teacher and healer. A graduate of the Jaffe Institute, she is currently an assistant teacher at the School of Spiritual Healing and Sufism.

*Accustomed long to applying
each new experience to my
own spiritual growth,
I have forgotten all creeds
and dogmas.*

—MILAREPA

12/16 What is God?

Mary Jo Kokochak

In the Judeo-Christian doctrine the universe has an origin, a beginning, and was created by a personified, eternal God. But, there are many other ways to understand the meaning of God which can lead to a deeper awareness of why it is that we and the universe exist.

Mary Jo is a past President of the Theosophical Society in Detroit, and presently the head of the American Federation of the Order of International Co-Freemasonry, Le Droit Humain, a Masonic obedience that admits both men and women.

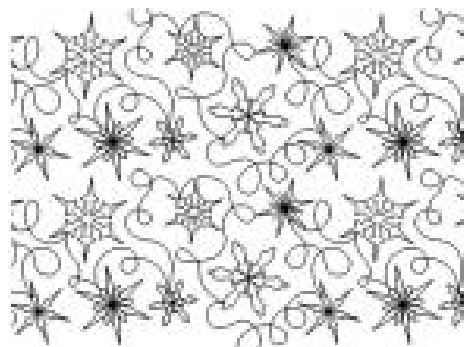
12/23 Inner Meaning of Christmas

TS Holiday Gathering - All are welcome!

Group discussion facilitated by long time theosophists Ron Leinweber and Dr. Richard Brooks on mysteries of death and rebirth at the time when the Sun is at midnight. We'll explore ideas of virgin birth of the Spirit within. We'll also examine cross-cultural celebration of the festivals of Light.

12/30 Theosophical Movie Fest

A spiritually inspired and thought-provoking movie as we travel forward in the cycle of time. Check website for update on movie name. A facilitated discussion will follow. Light refreshments will be served.



Spiritual Practices

Books! Books! Books!

Profound thanks for your contribution of philosophical and spiritual books.
We invite you to contribute more used books for our on-going "used books sale".

Book Review

Letters from the Masters of the Wisdom, Series 1
edited by C. Jinarajadasa

The Masters whom Theosophy presents to us are members of our own evolutionary group, not visitants from the celestial spheres. They are supermen only in that they have attained knowledge of the laws of life and mastery over its forces with which we are still struggling. They are the "just men made perfect," who have pressed forward to attain the fullness of the stature of Christ, the prize of the high calling of God in Christhood. They are not Gods come down to earth, but earthly mortals risen to the status of Christs.

They ask from us no reverence, no worship; they demand no allegiance but that which it is expected we shall render to the principles of Truth and Fact, and to the nobility of life. They are our "Elder Brothers," not distant deities; and will even make their presence known to us and grant us the privilege of cooperating with them when we have shown ourselves capable of working unselfishly for mankind.

They are not our Masters in the sense of holding lordship over us; they are the "Masters of Wisdom and Compassion." Moved by an infinite sympathy with the whole human race they have renounced their right to go forward to more splendid conquests in the evolutionary field, and have remained in touch with man in order to throw the weight of their personal force on the side of progress. — Alvin Boyd Khun

New Books at our Bookstore!

- *The Causal Body and the Ego* by Arthur E. Powell
- *Dreams* by C. W. Leadbeater
- *Earth Energies: A Quest for the Hidden Powers of the Planet* by Serge King
- *The Forsaken Garden: Four Conversations on the Deep Meaning of Environmental Illness* by Nancy Ryley
- *Gaia's Hidden Life: The Unseen Intelligence of Nature* by Shirley J. Nicholson
- *Giordano Bruno: An Apostle of Theosophy* by Annie Besant
- *Healing Powers of Tone and Chant* by Don Campbell and Tim Wilson
- *The Purpose of Tragedy* by Hugh Shearman
- *Glimpses into the Psychology of Yoga* by I. K. Taimni

***Rare and old
theosophical books
currently on sale***

The Theosophical Society in Detroit

27745 Woodward Avenue
Berkley, Michigan 48072-0906
(248) 545-1961

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED