



The Theosophical Society in Detroit

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

May - June 2006

The Know-How for Spiritual Vibrancy

What keeps us playing our parts and going round and round the three lower worlds is not a Divine dictate, but ourselves, our own will-to-live, which comes from within ourselves.

— N. SRI RAM

Summer time is truly a feast time. Beautiful flowers, lush lawns, critters and such, harvest of fruits and vegetables, and friends and families all make the season the highlight of the year. Very often, spiritual life is misunderstood to be a dull and renounced life, a life without much gusto or passion. But right awareness, knowledge, and practices from various traditions can be the “miracle gro” that lends vibrancy and cheer to spiritual life just as the proper gardening tools and natural resources bring out those colorful blooms in our garden.



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Visit www.tsdetroit.org
for more information

Ongoing Activities

BOOK STUDY GROUPS

Key To Theosophy – By Helena Blavatsky

- This group meets every Tuesday at 7:30 pm for members only
- Marina Sionov (248-545-8553) leads this group on the second Monday each month at 7:00 pm

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.

NEW DAYTIME HOURS

SATURDAYS — 11:00 A.M TO 3:00 P.M.

Relax and browse through
our lending library

May 2006

May 5 **Balancing Our States of Consciousness**

Dr. Nag

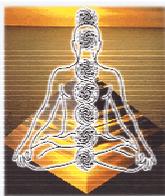
We perceive our consciousness to be tri-fold – wakeful, dream and sleep. We need a balance between these three states to live a supple life. However, we collect ignorance in the name of knowledge and inertia through our actions and suffer through problems ending up in emotional chaos. Mandukya Upanishad shows us how to straighten our perceptions regarding our states of life, and how to transform our bare survival instincts to spiritual vibrancies so that we can experience true bliss in our lives.

An engineer by profession, Dr. Nag is a life-long student of Vedanta, the highest truths in Hinduism. He conducts ongoing study of the Upanishads at his home and speaks on these philosophical texts at community events.

May 12 **Beyond Pranayama - Kundalini Yoga**

Dr. Krishna Kumar

Pranayama shows us how breathe and mind are closely interdependent. Controlling the breathe helps in focusing the mind, energizes and channels the pranic force into subtle-astral nervous channels, and creates a deeper state of relaxation. During such a meditative state we attempt to listen to God just as in prayer we aim to talk to God. Dr. Krishna Kumar will talk on how to carry the experience of meditative stage beyond and to merge with Divine consciousness through Kundalini energy when it's raised to sahsara – the crown center.



Dr. Krishna Kumar is founder, President and spiritual director of the Parashakthi temple in Pontiac. During a deep meditative Kundalini experience Dr. Kumar had a vision of Shakti (divine mother), to have a temple built in USA so that She can grant Her devotees Her divine blessings. He is also a distinguished physician and consultant at William Beaumont Hospital since 1970. He is a philosopher, seeker, seer, mystic, theosophist, and philanthropist. He is also a spiritual guide to many Christian clergy, pastors, and spiritual leaders.

May 19 **Some Occult Anatomy and Astrology**

Parke Carrier

Human beings are a microcosm of the divine principles of the macrocosm. To highlight this idea, Parke Carrier will help us understand how some anatomical parts of the human beings such as the spinal column, blood, mind, and indwelling spirit correlate to some aspects of occult astrology.

Parke Carrier is a long time member of the Theosophical Society of America and an ardent student of the Rosicrucian philosophy. Parke also co-chairs the Wednesday night's discussion group on occult teachings at the Theosophical Society in Detroit.

May 26 **"Many Happy Returns!"**

Dr. Richard Brooks

Dr. Brooks will discuss the various theories about reincarnation and describe some of the evidence to support that theory.

Dr. Richard Brooks is a retired professor of philosophy who taught a variety of subjects, including Indian philosophy, at Oakland University for 33 years. He has lectured for the Theosophical Society throughout the U.S. as well as in India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Brazil, and several countries in Europe. He has been a member of the Theosophical Society for over 50 years.



I look upon death to be as necessary to the constitution as sleep. We shall rise refreshed in the morning.

— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

I have been born more times than anybody except Krishna.

— MARK TWAIN

No man is your enemy, no man is friend. All alike are your teachers. One must no longer work for the gain of any benefit, temporal or spiritual, but to fulfill the law of being which is the righteous will of God.

EXCERPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM *PRACTICAL OCCULTISM* BY H.P. BLAVATSKY

June 2006

June 2 Unleashing Our Inner Potential

David Capraro

We can positively change our lives in every way to become spiritual dynamos united in a vision of a harmonious world. This talk will focus on why it is vital that we manifest our potential, some proven ways of going about it, and how it will be the regular people like us who are manifesting their inner potential that will bring lasting peace and harmony. We have to work together to make this really happen.

David Capraro is an Interreligious Coordinator for The Aetherius Society, USA. He began teaching spiritual sciences 25 years ago and has appeared on national TV and radio shows, and presented at the Parliament of the World's Religions. Dave is the President of In The Light group and is active in building cooperation between spiritual and religious organizations throughout the world, upon a foundation of shared universal values.

June 9 21st Century Perspective on the Ageless Wisdom

David Zimmerman

This talk will offer a panoramic view of the Ageless Wisdom teachings in the 21st century including science, ancient philosophy, the seven rays, esoteric astrology, problems of modern man in this new century, the responsibility of the 5th sub race of the 5th root race, and the emerging 6th root race.

David Zimmerman is an executive at General Motors, a graduate of the Claregate College of England, a Vietnam war veteran, and a life-long student of the Ageless Wisdom teachings who provides new insights of these teachings suitable for our times. David is also a lecturer, producer of educational videos and a financial supporter of esoteric teachings throughout America, England, Australia, South Africa, and Europe.



June 16 How to Live a Spiritual Life in Our Daily Lives

Imam Achmat Salie

Islam's genius was to make the ordinary very sacred. The Prophet of Islam, a successful merchant, aimed to make sacred a community of merchants and traders. There was no dichotomy between the political and the religious. Sleep is an act of worship and so too is intimacy with one's wife or husband. All of life could be sacred. Islam became a powerful movement because it went beyond "God is One" to "God IS". God is omnipotent, omniscient, All hearing, All Seeing, All Compassionate, and Ever Caring.

Imam Achmat Salie is currently the director of education, youth services, outreach and counseling at the Unity Center in Bloomfield Hills, MI. He has degrees in Education, Arabic, Islamic traditional learning, and business. He is passionate about peace, social and environmental justice. Originally from South Africa, he has been in Michigan for seven years.

June 23 Video on Bio-Dynamic Gardening: A How-to Guide

Marina Sionov

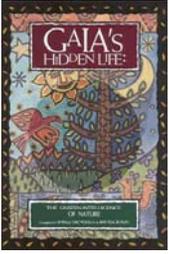
Joe Tooker gives step-by-step instructions in bio-dynamic gardening, a chemical-free process which regenerates and rejuvenates the earth.

Marina Sionov will facilitate a discussion following the video on environmental friendly gardening methods. Marina, a student of Tibetan Buddhism, leads the Monday night book study group at the Theosophical Society in Detroit.

The Theosophical Society – Mission

The Theosophical Society in 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.

Book Reviews



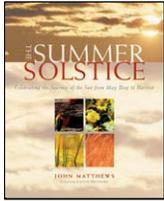
Gaia's Hidden Life: The Unseen Intelligence of Nature

Shirley J. Nicholson
Brenda Rosen

\$14.00 paper (0-8356-0685-6)

A new collection of essays on the living intelligence within nature from various spiritual and scientific perspectives, by James Lovelock, Dorothy MacLean, Joan

Halifax, Thomas Berry, John Seed, Serge King, author of *Earth Energies*, and others.



The Summer Solstice:

Celebrating the Journey of the Sun from May Day to Harvest

John Matthews

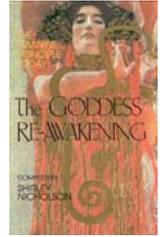
\$29.95 cloth (0-8356-0815-8)

The Goddess Re-Awakening

Shirley J. Nicholson

\$10.95 paper (0-8356-0642-2)

This anthology, with essays by Riane Eisler, June Singer, and others, considers Goddess myths, current psychological perspectives, and the feminine principle in spirituality today. It offers a worldview that integrates intuition, intellect, and feeling.



— **Shirley J. Nicholson** is past executive editor of Quest Books, and recent director of the Krotona School of Theosophy in Ojai, California. She is author of *Ancient Wisdom - Modern Insight*, co-author of *The Power of Thought* and editor of several Quest anthologies.

The spring clad all in gladness doth laugh at winter's sadness..Fa la la! -- Thomas Morley

Wherever we are, we are under the sun. As it rises, we greet the new day; as it melts away at dusk, we return to hearth and home for rest. Its life-giving warmth undoubtedly inspired humanity's oldest rituals, especially at the winter and summer solstices in December and June, when the sun's strength begins to wax or wane as the seasons change again.

Reclaiming ancient traditions for contemporary use, this stunning new book completes the cycle John Matthews began in his 1998 award-winning *The Winter Solstice*.

John Matthews is an international authority on Celtic folklore, the Western mystery tradition, and the Grail legends, and is one of the great culture-bearers of our times. He has written over forty books on the Arthurian legends, esoteric wisdom, and the Grail. His Quest Book *The Winter Solstice* won the Benjamin Franklin Award in 1998. With his wife and frequent coauthor Caitlin, John established

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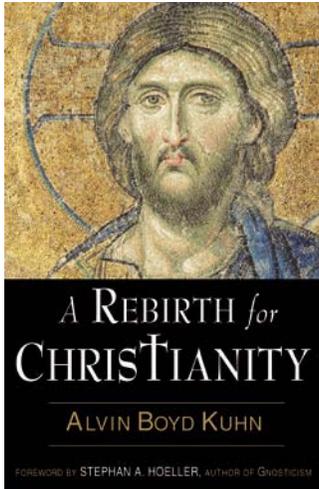
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Book Review



ISBN - 0-8356-0838-7

*This new paperback
edition is available now!
\$14.95*

A Rebirth for Christianity

Alvin Boyd Kuhn

Foreword by Stephan A. Hoeller

The search to uncover the hidden origins of Christianity and discover its true message has become a current topic of fascination for many readers. People are eager to know the truths behind the biblical legends and the mysteries that created Christian rites, ceremonies, and codes of behavior.

In this seminal work, Kuhn argues that the sacred scriptures of Judaism and Christianity do not portray historical truths, but symbolic and mystical metaphors. The spiritual truth encoded in scripture, says Kuhn, is far more important than its

literal narrative.

Kuhn's research provides a clear understanding of the allegorical interpretations of the scriptures and their significance to a deeper, more profound Christianity. He traces the historical and philosophical origins of Christian thought to illustrate that Jesus was one of many incarnations of an enduring archetype that has surfaced in many religions. In fact, those who wrote the scriptures may have never even intended the focus to be on Jesus, the man. Moreover, Kuhn investigates the problems (psychological, spiritual, and otherwise) that result from a purely historical interpretation of Jesus. In doing so, Kuhn reclaims the mystical power at the core of Christianity's message, which has to do with the "birth" of the inner Christ and the emergence of divine consciousness in humanity.

Endorsements

In an age when biblical literalism of all sorts is stifling religious discourse, Kuhn's classic work is a welcome reminder of the deeper truths to which Christianity calls each seeker.

-Richard Smoley, author of *Inner Christianity: A Guide to the Esoteric Tradition*

With insightful clarity Alvin Boyd Kuhn exposes the fallacy and distortion of interpreting sacred texts of Judaism and Christianity from a purely literal/historical rather than an allegorical perspective. This remarkable work confirms the blessed integration of body and soul, matter and spirit, as we, both individually and collectively, move through enlightenment and evolution to eventual reunion with the unquenchable flame of the Divine from which we come.

-Margaret Starbird, author of *The Woman with the Alabaster Jar* and *The Feminine Face of Christianity*

A REBIRTH FOR CHRISTIANITY is a thoughtful critique of Literalist Christianity and an insightful exploration of esoteric wisdom. The time has come to completely revise our understanding of Christianity and this book is a valuable contribution to the debate.

-Timothy Freke co-author of *The Jesus Mysteries*, *Jesus and the Lost Goddess*, and *The Laughing Jesus*