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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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## November – December 2007

We are happy to introduce a new format for Friday nights.  
Movies will be presented, followed by thoughtful open discussions.

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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.

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**Nov 2 Movie – Archetypal Forms and Forces**

Archetypal energies beckon us to live a larger life. We are all healers, warriors, visionaries and teachers – but often these potentials remain in latent form. Through song, dance, storytelling and meditation we can activate these archetypes. Angeles Arrien, Ph.D., a cross-cultural anthropologist, is on the faculty of the California Institute of Integral Studies and the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology.

**Nov 9 Movie – Archetypal Psychology**

Carl Jung's concept of synchronicity, an acausal principle, connects the ego to the larger archetypal self. This connection is like the ancient Chinese concept of the Tao in that it cannot be rationally understood. Jean Shinoda Bolen suggests that the images of the ancient dieties represent powerful projections of the psyche. By studying the myths of the gods, we can learn much about ourselves. It is by facing the truth of our lives that we can die to our past ways and enter into a new order of being.

**Nov 16 Movie – Unity of Man and Nature**

In this far ranging talk, Rolling Thunder contrasts this with the notion of mankind as dominator over nature. He describes the natural powers of native peoples which emerge from an attunement with nature. These include the ability to communicate with plants and animals, telepathic interactions with each other, and the ability to make rain. He describes his role as a healer using shamanistic methods and also describes his journeys to the worlds of spirits.

**November 23 ► No Meeting in observance of holidays**

**Nov 30 Movie - Meditation #1 and #2: Dialogue #17 and #18**

Krishnamurti constantly emphasized the right *place of thought* in daily life. But he also pointed out the dangers of thought as knowledge and mental images when it operates in relationships. This two-part movie (filmed in 1974) depicts a discussion between Krishnamurti and Allen Anderson on the many aspects of meditation.

**Dec 7 Movie – Meditation: The Inward Journey**

This film is vintage Alan Watts. In this video he explores various techniques created through the ages for the journey inward: the Hindu use of a mantra, the Christian use of prayer, the Buddhist use of silence, the Sufi use of dance. Alan Watts was a philosopher, writer, speaker, and expert in comparative religion. He was best known as an interpreter and popularizer of Asian philosophies for a Western audience.

**Dec 14 Movie – Brother Sun Sister Moon**

St. Francis of Assisi was an extraordinarily complex and difficult figure whose effect on his contemporary society was electrifying. Francesco renounces the riches, his family and starts to rebuild the Church as "il Poverello - the poorest of the poor." Even today, many people are moved by his visionary message of universal toleration.

**Dec 21 Movie – Dharma, The Law of Our Best Being**

Dharma is a Sanskrit term sometimes translated as duty to truth or to spiritual law. But how does one access spiritual truth and freely live by it? Find out as we explore the value of living a Theosophical life.

## 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.

- November 24 Dark Energy — Dark Matter and Quantum Energy. Recent discoveries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the theosophical perspective.
- December 27 Permanent Atoms — Reincarnation and Immortality. An in-depth look into esoteric teachings as they apply to mankind.

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

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### MEMBERS' WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION.....TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007..... 7:00-9:30 PM

Winter gathering for TS members, family and friends. Potluck vegetarian supper, gratitude ceremony, and blessing tree. For friendship circle, bring something you enjoy sharing for the winter holidays- a poem, prayer, story or song.

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### WORLD HEALING DAY .....MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2007 ..... 3:00-4:00 PM

Join us for readings and silent meditation for world healing and peace. Light refreshments. All are welcome. This is a yearly event in which people use their concentrated thought power to help generate energy for peace. Coinciding with group meditations throughout the world, we meet to help heal the sense of separation among human beings and to release light, love, and spiritual energy. Refreshments will be served after the mediation.



# Did you know?

*Many programs are offered at no charge or for a small fee at the*  
**Theosophical Society in America ♦ National Center Programs**

1926 North Main Street, Wheaton, Illinois

*For details please call (630) 668-1571*

Olcott and Blavatsky: Theosophical Twins — Thursday, November 1, 7 p.m. (CST)

Live Webcasting for this lecture is offered free of charge.  
 For instructions go to <http://www.theosophical.org/events/webcasting/index.php>

- ❖ Buddhism 201 — Wednesdays, November 7 through December 12, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.
- ❖ Digital Dharma — Thursday, November 8, 7 p.m.
- ❖ Dream Circle — Nov. 13/27, & December 11, 7:30 – 9 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
- ❖ Colonel Henry Steel Olcott: How He Influenced the Revival of the Buddhist World Thursday, November 15, 7 p.m.
- ❖ The Wisdom of Nisargadatta — Sundays, beginning December 16, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- ❖ Tai Chi Chuan — Wednesdays, until December 21, 7 – 8 p.m.
- ❖ Qigong & Tai Ji for Health & Vitality — Wednesdays, until December 21, 12 pm-1p.m.
- ❖ Book Club — Wednesdays
- ❖ Open Discussion Group Mondays — November 19, & December 17, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
- ❖ Therapeutic Touch Practice Circle — Wednesdays, Nov. 7 & 14, Dec. 5 & 19, 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ DuPage Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service — Monday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.

Glenn Mullin (internationally known scholar and translator of books on Tibetan Buddhism) presents...

- Pilgrimage in Tibet and Mongolia — Thursday, November 29, 7 p.m.
- Saturday Workshop Tsar Chod: Meditations on Transcending the Ordinary Sense of I — December 1, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- ❖ Holiday *Feng Shui*: Stacking the Deck While You Deck the Halls — Thursday, December 6, 7 p.m.
- ❖ Celebrating the Marriage of Spiritual Systems and Deep Ecology — Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m.
- ❖ Seasonal Celebration — Thursday, December 20, 7 p.m.
- ❖ Meditation for World Peace Monday, December 31, 6:00 – 7:00 a.m.

Hatha Yoga — offered at various time slots on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

## 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.

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

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

