
The Theosophical Society in Detroit

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



April 2010

We are happy to continue our Friday night meetings.
Movies or lectures 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.

April 2 ***Secret Egypt.***

Sheldon Rochlin and Maxine Harris. A trance journey to the heart and soul of the Egyptian people. Includes Sufi poetry of Rumi. 1995. 50 minutes. This film takes an impressionistic journey into the rituals of a culture that still tends the fires of ancient wisdom. Accompanied by the ecstatic poetry of Rumi, we see healing trance dances taking place in ancient tombs behind the pyramids, hypnotic songs and dances performed in tents and on street corners, and horses dancing to joyous music - such trance dances are a way to 'merge with the cosmic beat of the universe'.

Sheldon Rochlin & Maxine Harris are independent filmmakers and the founders and directors of Mystic Fire Video. In 1970, Rochlin moved to Pondicherry, India, residing at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville, where he established a video archival project. While in India he made three documentaries films on Buddhism from 1974-76: *Tantra Of Gyuto: Sacred Rituals Of Tibet*, *Tibetan Medicine: A Buddhist Approach To Healing*, and *Nepal: Land of the Gods*.

In 1973 Rochlin brought the Gyuto Tantric Monks out of India on their first European tour - where they performed their sacred rituals for the first time in the West.

In 1995 they completed two more documentaries: *Metamorphosis*, a dialogue on chaos and the world soul with Terence McKenna, Rupert Sheldrake and Ralph Abraham; and *Secret Egypt*, a musical journey to the heart and soul of the Egyptian people, featuring the poetry of Rumi.

To read more, Google *Sheldon Rochlin & Maxine Harris Biographical Background*

April 9 ***The Baha'i Faith:***

Alex Rocco. An introduction to the teachings of the Baha'i Faith. .

Baha'is view the world's major religions as a part of a single, progressive process through which God reveals His will to humanity. Baha'u'llah (1817-1892), the Founder of the Baha'i Faith, is recognized as the most recent in a line of Divine Messengers that includes Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Zoroaster, Christ and Muhammad.

The central theme of Baha'u'llah's message is that humanity is one single race and that the day has come for humanity's unification into one global society. While reaffirming the core ethical principles common to all religions, Baha'u'llah also revealed new laws and teachings to lay the foundations of a global civilization. "A new life," Baha'u'llah declared, "is, in this age, stirring within all the peoples of the earth."

To read more go to <http://www.bahai.us/>

April 16

Two half hour videos dealing with society's major questions about the great religions

- ***Universes Within: Theosophical Reflections on the World's Religions.*** Robert Ellwood. The 1997 Founders address, given at the 111th Annual Meeting and Summer School of the Theosophical Society in America, examines some of the more interesting aspects of mainstream religion from the Theosophical perspective.
- ***Is Religion Really the Cause of Two-Thirds of the World's Evil?*** Robert Ellwood. Looks at the factual bases, or lack thereof, of this controversial statement from The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett...

April 23

The Still Point Between Good and Evil

Ed Abdill delivers a presentation at the 114th Annual Meeting and Summer School of the Theosophical Society in America, questioning the existence of inherent evil and suggesting that it is we, as human beings, who are responsible for our experiences of both good and evil. Spirit and matter, good and evil, and all such opposites are shown to be polar aspects of one eternal background reality. The speaker suggests ways of transcending this apparent duality and realizing the eternal unitary principle.

Ed Abdill is one of our preeminent Theosophical lectures, whose entertaining personality greatly enhance the students learning experience

For more *Ed Abdill*, download free MP3 audio

1. Go to www.theosophical.org,
2. Click on the Resource Menu
3. Click on MP3 Downloads
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April 30

How to Change the World: Inspired by the Thought of Teilhard de Chardin

Elda Hartley. A host of artists, philosophers, and scientists celebrate Teilhard's ideas about evolution.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was a visionary French Jesuit, paleontologist, biologist, and philosopher, who spent the bulk of his life trying to integrate religious experience with natural science, most specifically Christian theology with theories of evolution. In this endeavor he became absolutely enthralled with the possibilities for humankind, which he saw as heading for an exciting convergence of systems, an "Omega point" where the coalescence of consciousness will lead us to a new state of peace and planetary unity. Long before ecology was fashionable, he saw this unity as being based intrinsically upon the spirit of the Earth: (To read more Google: "*The Age of Nations is past. The task before us now, if we would not perish, is to build the Earth.*")

Ongoing Activities

MONDAYS: 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH 7:00 PM

BOOK STUDY: ESOTERIC BUDDHISM

Book Study: Esoteric Buddhism by A.P. Sinnett. This book constituted one of the earliest exploration of 'Karma' and 'Reincarnation' and other terms previously almost unknown in the West. For details call Marina Sionov at (248) 545-8553 or (248) 545-1961.

TUESDAYS: 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

A MIXED MEDIA APPROACH

Multi-media study of The Secret Doctrine. "This massive study of man, of nature, of spiritual evolution, of the essence of reality is an astonishing document. . . . Blavatsky synthesizes science and spirituality into an exhilarating journey of spiritual awareness." — *The Book Reader* Contact Mara Radzvickas for details at (248) 545-1961.

WEDNESDAYS: 7:30 – 9:00 PM SHARP

OPEN DISCUSSION

Don Elwert continues the grand tradition of the Wednesday night open forum. Meetings involve a wide ranging exploration of theosophical writings and ideas, Christian Mysticism, astrology and Rosicrucian thought.

THURSDAYS: 7:30 – 9:00 PM

MEDITATION CIRCLE

Please arrive *early*. The meditators' support circle emphasizes meditation as a way to be with Spirit and in Spirit. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early. For information call Ron at (248) 280-4711.