



The Theosophical Society in Detroit

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

March - April 2006

Springing Back to Life with Prana the Vital Living Force

*I love to think of nature as an unlimited
broadcasting station, through which God speaks
to us every hour, if we will only tune in.*

— GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Slowly as our part of the globe snuggles up toward the sun, we shake away the winter blues. Just as the warm sun rekindles all of creation, we find Prana, the primal life force, revitalizing us within and without. The beauty of spring makes us wonder about the power that sustains us. Beneath the duality of consciousness and matter, lies "Prana which fuels evolution, the source of all vital functions in all forms of life, and becomes thoughts and desires in our minds," says Eknath Easwaran in his translation of Prashna Upanishad.



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. Members only.

Two study groups meet at different times:

- EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:30 P.M.
- SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 P.M.
FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT MARINA: (248) 545-8553

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Visit www.tsdetroit.org
for more information

March 2006

March 3 The Still Point Beyond Good and Evil *National Speaker Ed Abdill*

Why are we frequently caught between the proverbial rock and hard place? Is there some perverse force in nature that prevents us from having a harmonious and happy life? As always, the theosophical philosophy points to universal principles for the solution. From night to day, death to life, female to male, and from good to evil, the principle of polarity is evident. Without it, the world would not exist. With it, we struggle for harmony. Yet, despite that fact, there is a point beyond the opposites that gives rise to a power that makes all things new, and it is accessible to each of us. See insert for more information.

Ed Abdill is the author of *The Secret Gateway*, former Director of the Theosophical Society in America and past President of the New York Theosophical Society (NYTS). He has lectured for the Society throughout this country and internationally. He currently teaches courses on Theosophy for the NYTS.

"Key to Wisdom"
by Ed Abdill
Saturday, March 4th 9.30 am - 1.30 pm

March 10 Rejuvenatics *Christine Mohr*

The art of living requires a practice. Being an art, it does not happen by chance. My practice, called "Rejuvenatics", is the fusing of the mind, body, soul Matrix, the vehicle for your spiritual growth during this incarnation. Since everything in the Universe is vibration, I will present viable practices that keep me rejuvenated and balanced on my path to enlightenment.

Christine is a theosophist and holds to the wisdom teachings as I move through all new experiences. She is a pilgrim seeking those "truths" through research into many "energy healing" modalities. Christine's quest is to live with purpose while allowing for change as she re-learns how to become ONE with the Source of all energy. Christine is also a Natural Healing Consultant with a BA in Communication Arts, minor in Business Management from Oakland University, Rochester. Formerly a medical lab tech and financial planner and member of TS since 1999.



March 17 Holistic Medicine *Dr. Harsha Jayatilake*

We all recognize that we're more the physical body, but often today's healthcare limits itself to just the body. This presentation will address how holistic medicine works for the body, mind, and soul including a variety of treatment options.

Dr. Jayatilake is a Board Certified Family Physician who specializes in Acupuncture and Holistic Medicine. He is a national and international speaker and a researcher in holistic medicine. He teaches at Wayne State University where he has also directed the Complementary and Alternative Medicine elective program. Currently, he is the Medical Director of The Oakland Center for Holistic Medicine, where he integrates conventional medicine with Complementary/Alternative modalities.

March 24 What is *that* which makes us alive? *Prasanna Vengadam*

Prana, or the vital living force, is one of the seven principles that constitute the human body. We are primarily the deathless monad, but it is Prana that vitalizes our brief stay on the physical plane. This talk will elaborate on how Prana works on the individual and cosmic level.

Prasanna is the President of the Theosophical Society in Detroit and a follower of Vedantic path toward self-realization. She also teaches Hinduism at the Bharatiya Temple and writes and speaks on nonviolence, self-transformation, and peace. She presented at the 2004 World Parliament of Religions in Spain on the spiritual basis of non-violence. She also teaches at the Wayne State University and Oakland Community College.

March 31 The Legacy of Hinduism *Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine*

The roots of theosophy lie in ancient thought and practices of Hinduism. What is the legacy of this religious achievement in the modern world both in India and western society?

Rabbi Wine founded the Birmingham Temple in suburban Detroit in 1963, the first congregation of Humanistic Judaism where he currently serves as founding rabbi. He has helped establish the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews, a worldwide association. Rabbi Wine was honored with the 2003 Humanist of the Year award which recognizes a person of national or international reputation who, through the application of humanist values, has made a significant contribution to the improvement of the human condition. Rabbi Wine is also an author and educator.

April 2006

**April 7 The Taoist Way
to Health and Spirituality**

Robert Lewanski

Robert will speak on the spiritual practice of Taoism for enhancing health. An important aspect of practicing Taoism is to flow naturally with life and not use force. This is known as wu wei (effortlessness). This talk will cover nutrition, qigong, emotions, meditations, and quieting the mind.

Robert has been a theosophist for 45 years, is a graduate of the Chinese National Chi Kung Institute, and co-author of Perfect Eyesight.

**April 14 The Easter-Ascension Mystery:
Uncovering the Idea The Mystical
Christ**

Ron Leinweber

The so-called movement through "Lent" has always been a call to move from radical self-centeredness into what John of the Cross calls "the living flame of Love." In the Easter season, it is worthwhile to remember how the Christian liturgical year, leading to a Resurrection and a Transfiguration, conveys the seeking of the Divine until meditation is fulfilled with a communion *within* the Divine. In this fuller vision of Easter, the hidden, cosmic Christ is the partner of mystical infusion leading to loving union with God.

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 mediator who currently leads three meditation groups in the Detroit area. He is a commissioned Benedictine oblate and is currently completing an internship leading to certification as a spiritual director.

**April 22 Meditation Retreat
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

—See details on insert—

April 21 Zen and American Culture
Detroit Zen Center

Zen and American Culture: Amidst our complicated American culture and lifestyles, how can we pursue true spirituality? Presented from the perspective of a Zen monk.

Sahnbul Sunim: A Zen monk for 25 years, Sunim founded the Detroit Zen Center in 1990, where he integrates traditional teachings with modern minds and times, and is the Resident Teacher.

Myungju Sunim: A Zen monk, she became an apprentice to Sahnbul Sunim in 1997. She is the Director of the Zen Center and Sahnbul's Assistant.

**April 28 Spiritual Ecstasy
in Indian Classical Dance**

Devika Raghavan

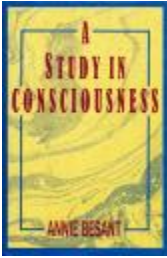
In this classical Indian dance genre, Devika and her students will demonstrate how Bharathanatyam elevates the mind, body, and spirit. Bharathanatyam is universal in that it brings a kind of joy and serenity that transcends all barriers. This evening will transport you to an enchanting land where Hindu mythology, spiritual tradition, and pure rapture all come together to perform a dance number either in a pure dance form or to tell a story.

Devika Raghavan is a choreographer, performer, and teacher who enjoys teaching Bharathanatyam to young and aspiring dancers in her dance school "Kalarasana". She is a resident of Troy, Michigan and works as a Fifth-Grade teacher with Southfield Public Schools since 1994. Through her teaching, she strives to promote the appreciation of Indian fine arts.

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



A Study in Consciousness

By Annie Besant

This book is intended as an aid to student in their study of the growth and development of consciousness, offering hints and suggestions which may prove serviceable to them. It does not pretend to be a complete exposition, but rather, as its sub-title states, a contribution to the science of Psychology. Far ampler materials than are within my reach are necessary for any complete

exposition of the far-reaching science which deals with the unfolding of consciousness. These materials are slowly accumulating in the hands of earnest and painstaking students, but no effort has yet been made to arrange and systematise them into a co-ordinated whole.

In this little volume I have only arranged a small part of this material, in the hope that it may be useful now to some of the toilers in the great field of the Evolution of Consciousness, and may serve, in the future, as a stone in the complete building. It will need a great architect to plan that temple of knowledge, and skilful master masons to direct the building; enough, for the moment, to do the apprentice task, and prepare the rough stones for the use of the more expert workmen.

81-7059-339-5 \$12.95 Cloth



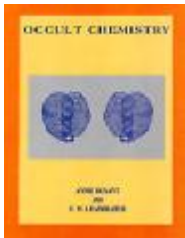
Esoteric Christianity: Or The Lesser Mysteries

By Annie Besant

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. The generous wish to share with all what is precious, to broadcast priceless truths, to shut out none from the illumination of true knowledge, has resulted in a zeal without discretion that has vulgarized Christianity, and has presented its teachings in a form that often repels the heart and alienates the intellect. Knowledge of spiritual truths must be obtained from within and not without, from the divine Spirit whose temple we are and not from an external teacher.

This is the way of the Divine Wisdom, the true Theosophy. It is not, as some think, a diluted version of Hinduism, or Buddhism, or Taoism or of any special religion. It is Esoteric Christianity as truly as it is Esoteric Buddhism, and belongs equally to all religions, exclusively to none.

81-7059-120-1 \$9.95 paper



Occult Chemistry: Investigations by Clairvoyant Magnification into the Structure of the Atoms of the Periodic Table and of Some Compounds

By Annie Besant and C.W. Leadbeater

Clairvoyant investigations into the structure of matter yielded the first observation and systematic recording of the detailed structure of the atoms of all elements, including the existence of isotopes five years before their "official discovery" by science in 1912.

81-7059-242-9 \$54.95 Cloth

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