

## THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN PORTLAND

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A Branch of the Theosophical Society in America

2377 NW Kearney Street

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### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON PUBLIC PROGRAMS – February – May 2013**

Public programs begin promptly at 3:00 P.M. The door is open by 2:00 P.M. for your convenience

Please arrive early so as to avoid disrupting the presentation and others in the audience

#### **Basic Concepts of Theosophy**

Group Study. A number of our Sunday programs will be devoted to a basic concept of Theosophy presented in an informal format led by a branch member. As a group, we will study and discuss some of these influential concepts. All levels of interest are welcome.

#### **Science and the Secret Doctrine**

Today scientists have made incredible advances in their exploration of time, space, and the nature of reality. This year we will view the recent four-part PBS video series entitled "The Fabric of the Cosmos," presented and written by physicist Brian Greene, and then compare it with some of the ancient ideas presented by Madame Blavatsky in *The Secret Doctrine*, which was published in 1888. The Secret Doctrine asserts three Fundamental Propositions: 1) There is one Absolute, unified reality, 2) the absolute universality of the law of periodicity of flux and reflux, of ebb and flow, and 3) the obligatory pilgrimage of every soul or spark of the oversoul, through cycles of incarnation. Stemming from these Propositions are four basic ideas: 1) the fundamental unity of all existence, 2) there is no such thing as "dead matter," 3) Man is the Microcosm, and 4) the great Hermetic Axiom: As above, so below. Interestingly, many of these ancient universal concepts presented in Blavatsky's writings are being validated by modern scientists. Following the viewing of each one-hour video, there will be a group discussion of the fascinating correlation of ancient and modern scientific theories.

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#### February 3     **Basic Concepts of Theosophy – DHARMA – Group Study**

The concept of Dharma can be defined as duty, sometimes law, sometimes morality, and sometimes righteousness. As Annie Besant says in her book on the subject, "Morality is an individual thing and varies with the dharma of the individual.... Hence, what is right for one is wrong for another. There is nothing absolute in a conditioned universe." And, as Krishna said in the Bhagavad Gita, "Better is one's own Dharma, through destitute of merit, than the well executed Dharma of another..." In light of the complexity of the present world situation with many individuals, nations and religions struggling to co-exist, our discussion will address the absolute and relative levels of Dharma, from the perspective of the individual to the state.

#### February 10     **PART 1- KING ARTHUR IN EARLY HISTORY AND LEGEND – Patricia Fulbright**

References to King Arthur and his British warrior companions first appear in the earliest records of post-Roman Britain, after the Empire had abandoned its British colony of 400 years. This presentation will address the interesting and controversial possible origins of Arthur and his magical world of wizards, fairies, and giants, as well as examine likely sources for Arthur among Celtic gods and heroes of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Brittany. Evidence exists not only in early historical records but also in many traditional legends and a wide array of archeological sites.

*Patricia Fulbright* has taught early British mythology and literature at Clark College. She is a life long student of Neoplatonic philosophy and ancient Greek literature.

February 17 **PART 2- KING ARTHUR AND HIS COURT FOR THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES** –  
*Patricia Fulbright*

In the European high Middle Ages, tales of King Arthur and his illustrious court at Camelot embodied ideals of the chivalric warrior code and etiquette of courtly love. Across Britain, France, Germany, and Italy, these Arthurian stories, celebrating both knights and noble ladies, inspired generations of gifted poets, musicians, and storytellers to retell, embellish, and expand on the deeds of the Knights of the Round Table. As royal patrons often sponsored such artistic works, Camelot became a fresh inspiration for the lifestyles of the rich and famous in the 12th--15th centuries. This presentation will highlight selected tales to illustrate their ethical and spiritual dimensions.

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February 24 **WHAT IS SPACE?** – 60-minute video with discussion

Scientists say that space is not really empty. In fact, they say that space is real, and it can twist, bend, and ripple. Today's program will look at dark energy, black holes, and gravity, the existence of which help explain why today's scientists believe that space is something rather than nothing, "real" as opposed to void or unreal.

March 3 **Basic Concepts of Theosophy – LIFE AFTER DEATH** – Group Study

Theosophy holds that our real self is no more dead after we leave our physical body than it was before death. And like some of the world's major religions, Theosophy talks about a heaven world or Devachan. In today's study group, we will discuss how Theosophy explains the process of dying and entering into life after death in terms of man's "higher" bodies or fields.

March 10 **THE POWER OF THE ETERNAL NOW** – *Terry Hunt*

Many of us are convinced that we would be nobody if we had no memory of our past, of people and events. But is that true? Is my sense of self inextricably bound to the past? Scientists and occultists assure us that time is a human concept and that it exists only in the human brain. If that is true, then animals don't experience time, nor do angels and beings with higher consciousness. Is it possible that time doesn't really exist?

How did our concept of time evolve? When and why were calendars invented? What are the akashic records? How do clairvoyants see the past and the future? It is important for students of the Ancient Wisdom to have an accurate grasp on this concept of time. Why? Because there is great power in not just understanding the underlying ideas, but in implementing them in our lives.

Life is easy when we live in the present at all times instead of in the past or in the future, but it takes practice. We will explore together many of these ideas and learn how to make use of the knowledge in solving life's problems.

*Terry Hunt* has taught classes in Theosophy and methods of self-transformation since 1978. A national lecturer for the Theosophical Society in America, he has also lectured and taught seminars in Spanish on behalf of the Inter-American Federation and is co-author of the book *Ancient Wisdom for a New Age: A Practical Guide for Spiritual Growth*.

March 17 **STORYTELLER CINEMA** – Two 25-minute videos

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE OREGON FOOD BANK! In lieu of donations to the Theosophical Society for today's program, we ask that you bring two cans or boxes of nonperishable food items for donation to the Oregon Food Bank. Please help us feed the hungry in Oregon. Thank you!

Today's program offers two short films produced by Jim Henson Productions:

The Luck Child – Can a child born "lucky" survive the machinations of an evil king and find true love?

Fearnot – The enchanting tale of a young man who went forth to learn what fear was.

March 24      **THE ILLUSION OF TIME** – 60-minute video with discussion

What is time, really? Is it like a river that flows, a clock that ticks, or nothing more than an illusion? We may not know what time is, but we know what time it "is!" Today's program will look at the nature of past, present and future, and of time itself.

March 31      Library closed for Easter Sunday. No public program

April 7        **Basic Concepts of Theosophy – MEDITATION** – Group Study

It has been said that prayer is when we talk to God, and meditation is when God talks to us. By quieting the "monkey mind," the lower mind that flits constantly between details and attachments of our daily lives, we can strengthen the higher mind to help us realize our true spiritual being. A steady practice of meditation can increasingly shift our focus from the physical plane to the higher planes to help us achieve this Realization. A discussion of various types and importance of meditation will be beneficial for neophytes and experienced meditators alike.

April 14      **QUANTUM LEAP** – 60-minute video with discussion

Welcome to the world of quantum mechanics! On the scale of atoms and particles, the universe is nothing like it seems. Objects pop in and out of existence; things can, in a sense, be in two places at once. Scientists say that the law of quantum mechanics rules over every tiny sub-atomic particle in every atom, yet everything at the quantum level is unpredictable and can give us new insights into a very mysterious world.

April 21      **EARTH'S ENERGY-GRID, SACRED SITES AND SACRED GEOMETRY  
THROUGHOUT THE SOLAR SYSTEM** – *Steve Herrington*

Dragon lines, ley lines, Hartman and Curry grids and many more – there have long been theories about ancient lines or web-like grids of energy that crisscross our planet. And today, as more and more sacred sites and long-hidden megalithic structures are being discovered, the majority turn out to lie upon these mysterious lines of force.

We'll look at the basics of Earth's energy grid and go on to explore more in-depth questions such as: Does the grid system as well as the Earth's iron core conform to the dimensions of a giant dodecahedron – the 12-sided Platonic Solid? Is the Great Pyramid of Giza situated at the middle of this energy network and if so what is the connection between it and other sacred sites and places of power such as Maya pyramids, Stonehenge, Avebury, China's immense white pyramid, the Nazca lines, Rennes-le-Chateau, Bimini, the Bermuda Triangle and others? Further, what's up with all of the mysterious street pattern arrangements of Washington DC and other recent man-made sites and what are their links to equivalent ancient locations?

If Earth's energy grid system is analogous to the acupuncture meridian system of the human body, then does our planet also have its "chakra" energy vortices? Can we learn to heal and harness the energies coursing through these geo-meridians and nodal points and were the ancients already doing this with a surprisingly advanced subtle system of stone and acoustic technologies?

Has the Earth energy grid shifted over time in response to "pole shifts" or other such phenomena and were many sacred sites established to help track this geologic movement? If so, does this explain how ancient people appear to have mapped out the geography and pre-ice shorelines of Antarctica? - and for that matter, was Antarctica Atlantis? Also, how have last century's numerous nuclear bomb tests and droppings damaged or otherwise affected Earth's energy grid and might such effects have been intentional? In regards to this nuclear-grid link we also have to ask "how are the more recent outbreaks of UFO sightings and crop-circle appearances related to all of this?" And finally we'll look at the question of how the sacred-geography geometry of Earth relates to that of the greater solar system – such as the huge hexagon at Saturn's North pole, recurrent patterns in solar flares and the famous anomalous features on Mars and the Moon.

*Steve Herrington* is a local Portland artist, author, and student of multicultural esoteric traditions.

April 28      No public program. Library open

May 5

**UNIVERSE OR MULTIVERSE?** – 60-minute video with discussion

Is our universe unique, or could it be just one of many in an endless “multiverse” where copies of you, me, and everyone else may exist? Scientists discuss the Big Bang theory of the origin of our universe, the expansion rate of our universe--"eternal inflation," where the universe can form into "swiss cheese" with holes for other universes to exist, and the multi-dimensional "string theory" of how universes can work on the tiniest scale!

**Attention: Book lovers! The Theosophical Society in  
Portland plans to hold a book sale in October 2013.  
Details will be announced in our fall flyer.**

This is the end of the second half of this season’s programs.

The program for next fall will be distributed in late summer.

A contribution of \$5.00 is appreciated. An informal social hour follows all presentations.

Your donations are critical to funding our Sunday public program series.

We turn no one away for lack of funds, yet ask that you be as generous  
as you can be with your donations. Thank you.

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ **We welcome book donations.** ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇  
We have new and used books for sale. Please check with our librarian.

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**LIBRARY HOURS:**

Fridays 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sundays 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(but closed from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. during Sunday public programs)

The library will be closed on Sundays following major holidays.

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