

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN PORTLAND

503-223-6861

A Branch of the Theosophical Society in America

2377 NW Kearney Street

Theosophical.PDX@gmail.com

Portland, Oregon 97210

www.portland.theosophical.org

www.theosophical.org

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PUBLIC PROGRAMS – February – May, 2016

Public programs begin promptly at 3:00 P.M. and generally run an hour or so.

The door (and library) opens 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 branch members. As a group, we will study and discuss some of these influential concepts. All levels of interest are welcome.

Group Meditation

You are invited to join in a group meditation led by a branch member on the following Sundays from 2:30 – 2:55 p.m.: February 21, March 13, April 10, and April 24. All levels of interest are welcome.

February 7 **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, though 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 21 Group meditation – 2:30-2:55 p.m.

February 21 **THE POWER OF AWARENESS** – an 85-minute video presentation

Most human beings deal with the challenges of daily living by means of physical actions, emotional responses, and intellectual endeavors. Although these may be appropriate coping skills on a practical level, they rarely address the root cause of the difficulties we encounter, and we tend to repeat mistakes or create new problems in solving the old ones. Fortunately, we all possess a higher faculty — one that can bring about a fundamental change in ourselves and in society. This faculty, variously called awareness, mindfulness, or witnessing, becomes an active power when we discover how to tap into it.

Author and speaker *Vic Hao Chin, Jr.* is past president of the Theosophical Society in the Philippines and founder and chairman of the Golden Link School.

February 28 **THE SOUL’S JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE AND DEATH** – *Pablo Sender, Ph.D.*

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Please note that this program is scheduled to run two hours earlier than our usual schedule.

According to the Theosophical teachings, the purpose of our existence is to develop the divine seed present in every human being. This magnificent growth, that begins with primitive man and ends

with an enlightened being, requires repeated experiences through cyclic rebirths. In this lecture we will explore the natural laws and processes that rule the soul's evolutionary journey.

Pablo Sender, Ph.D., became a member of the Theosophical Society in his native Argentina and has presented Theosophical lectures, seminars, and classes in India, the United Kingdom, Europe, and the three Americas. His articles, in Spanish and English, have been published in several Theosophical journals. Learn more at his website: pablosender.wordpress.com.

March 6 **Basic Concepts of Theosophy – POWER OF THOUGHT** – Group Study

An early member of the Theosophical Society wrote that thought “is a power possessed by all, but intelligently used as yet by few.” Thought by itself can be used positively or negatively and is one of the ways we generate karma. Today's group study discussion will center on the nature and effects of thought.

March 13 Group meditation – 2:30-2:55 p.m.

March 13 **EDGAR CAYCE AND HIS THEOSOPHY** – *Fred Brown*

Edgar Cayce is considered the most outstanding psychic this country has ever known. His ability to go into trance and accurately diagnose and successfully treat people's illnesses with only a high school education and no medical background is a feat no one has duplicated. Through his life readings, Cayce presented a wealth of theosophy that helped many to heal their spiritual wounds. In this one hour program Fred Brown will introduce you to Edgar Cayce and his theosophy.

Fred Brown, a retired Personal Financial Consultant, has been associated with Edgar Cayce's organization, The Association For Research and Enlightenment (A.R.E.) for more than 30 years.

March 20 **MEDICAL ASTROLOGY, HERBS AND THE LOST MEDICAL SYSTEM OF OLD EUROPE** – *Judith Hill*

Nostradamus and Nicholas Culpeper both practiced a sophisticated system of “indigenous” western medicine, necessitating mastery in both herbology and medical astrology. Their paradigm included at least six etiologies (causes for disease) no longer used today. These include several divisions of “supernatural” causation, astrological causation and others. We will review these lost etiologies and the basic doctrines of classic medical astrology.

Judith Hill is a life-time astrologer, researcher and award winning author of ten books, including *Medical Astrology*, *Your Guide to Planetary Pathology*, *The Astrological Body Types*. She is a Chartered Herbalist and produces the “Renaissance Medicine Conference” in Portland, Oregon (April 30-May 1). She served as the Educational Director for the San Francisco National Council for Geocosmic Research (1989) and is widely known for her world-published statistical research of astro-seismology and astro-genetics.

March 27 Library closed for Easter Sunday. No public program.

April 3 **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 10 Group meditation – 2:30-2:55 p.m.

April 10 **DIONYSUS AND THE BACCHIC MYSTERIES** – *Patricia Fulbright*

Inspiring possession and ecstasy as well as rage and savagery, Dionysus seems the most enigmatic of Hellenic gods. This charismatic son of Zeus and the woman Semele is counted among the twelve great Olympian gods, yet he lives apart in caves and other hidden wild places, together with his companions, sex-crazed satyrs and frenzied nymphs. In myth, he appears unexpectedly, bringing chaos, discord, death, and social transgressions to those who encounter him. Yet he has given to mankind the intoxicating gifts of wine, dance, theater, and music. Ancient festivals honoring Dionysus range from women's secret nocturnal rites to acclaimed public performances of comedies and tragedies. This presentation explores the nature, deeds, and legacies of Dionysus.

Patricia Fulbright has taught mythology and literature at Clark College. She is a lifelong student of Neoplatonic philosophy and ancient Greek literature.

April 24 Group meditation – 2:30-2:55 p.m.

April 24 **THE TALE OF CUPID AND PSYCHE IN ART AND TAROT** – *Michael S. Howard*

"Cupid and Psyche" is a Roman-era allegory and romantic tale. Its use as a source in art since the Renaissance strikingly echoes the imagery of the tarot, another archetypal narrative on the theme of the soul's quest for fulfillment. Each can be used to understand the other, as we will see in a sequence of alternating images that tell the tale.

Michael S. Howard, Ph.D. graduated from Reed College and has Ph.D.'s from Cornell University (philosophy) and Pacifica Graduate Institute (clinical psychology). He has taught at the State University of New York at Albany and Portland State University. He is a long-time member of the Queen of Heaven Gnostic Church in Portland, where he gives occasional slide presentations on spiritual themes. He is affiliated with Trionfi, a tarot history organization based in Germany (trionfi.com), and Le Tarot Associazione Culturale in Italy, for whom he helps with Italian to English translations. On a recent trip to Italy he made a point of going to "Cupid and Psyche" fresco cycles, of which there were more than he realized.

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.

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN PORTLAND

LOCATION:

2377 N.W. Kearney Street, Portland, Oregon 97210
Telephone: 503-223-6861

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.

. The Theosophical World View

The Theosophical Society, while reserving for each member full freedom to interpret those teachings known as theosophy, is dedicated to preserving and realizing the ageless wisdom, which embodies both a world view and a vision of human self-transformation.

This tradition is founded upon certain *fundamental propositions*:

Every existent being – from atom to galaxy – is rooted in the same universal, life-creating Reality. This Reality is all-pervasive, but it can never be summed up in its parts, since it transcends all its expressions. It reveals itself in the purposeful, ordered, and meaningful processes of nature as well as in the deepest recesses of the mind and spirit.

Recognition of the unique value of every living being expresses itself in reverence for life, compassion for all, sympathy with the need of all individuals to find truth for themselves, and respect for all religious traditions. The ways in which these ideals become realities in individual life are both the privileged choice and the responsible act of every human being.

Central to the concerns of theosophy is the *desire to promote understanding and brotherhood* among people of all races, nationalities, philosophies, and religions. Therefore, all people, whatever their race, creed, sex, caste, or color, are invited to participate equally in the life and work of the Society. *The Theosophical Society imposes no dogmas*, but points toward the source of unity beyond all differences. *Devotion to truth, love for all living beings, and commitment to a life of active altruism* are the marks of the true theosophist.