

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN PORTLAND

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A Branch of the Theosophical Society in America

2377 NW Kearney Street

Portland, Oregon 97210

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON PUBLIC PROGRAMS – October 2016 – January 2017

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.

Online Classes available at theosophical.org (see back page of this flyer).

Attention: Book lovers! Mark your calendars
for The Theosophical Society in Portland book sale
October 8-9, 2016; 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Books of all kinds, plus CDs, DVDs and more, will be
available for sale. You may find rare treasures.

October 16 **Basic Concepts of Theosophy – INTRODUCTION TO THEOSOPHY** – Group Study

Dedicated to man's eternal search for the Divine, Theosophy could be described as a synthesis of religion, science, and philosophy. It asserts the fundamental unity of all existence and holds that all things, including both forms and consciousness, are evolving. Topics covered will include a discussion of the Theosophical world view and the objects of the Theosophical Society.

October 23 **LIVING THEOSOPHY THROUGH COMPASSION AND SERVICE** – *Nancy Secrest*

Living Theosophy requires that we live each day recognizing the Oneness of all life, inherent in the First Object of the Theosophical Society, through compassionate action and selfless service. This talk explores the teachings of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Annie Besant on altruism, compassion and service. It answers the questions, what is compassion, how is it related to our Buddhi nature and how can we express it in the world?

Nancy Secrest began studying metaphysics and comparative religion in childhood. She encountered Theosophy in her early twenties and joined the Theosophical Society in 1980. Nancy currently serves as the Western District Director of the Theosophical Society in America and has held the positions of National Secretary and National Treasurer of the Society. Nancy is also the International Secretary of the Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) and the current President of the TOS in America.

October 30 **GOTHIC TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION** – *Patricia Fulbright*

Welcome to the imaginary realm where an eerie gothic flame illuminates our human world in unfamiliar, dark, even frightening dimensions. Allow yourself to enter an ancient, remote castle or, perhaps, the shadowy crypt of an abandoned abbey to discover dreadful secrets of unspeakable evil, of uncanny forces at play. For a time visit a mysterious place that entraps unsuspecting visitors and reveals terrifying evidence that the dead return to life.

Such are the theatrical elements and themes of gothic tales, stories that have entertained us for centuries. This presentation will focus on early iconic myths and stories alight with gothic fire. We will explore both mythological and psychological dimensions of this gothic literature.

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

November 6 **Basic Concepts of Theosophy – THE THEOSOPHICAL VIEW OF MAN AND HIS SEVEN FIELDS** – Group Study

Interpenetrating the dense matter of our physical world are other “higher” planes or fields composed of finer grades of matter vibrating at higher frequencies. In the same way, man also has “higher” fields composed of these finer grades of matter interpenetrating his dense physical body. Today’s study group discussion will cover man’s seven fields and his vehicles of expression in them.

November 13 **LETTING GO – THE ART OF RELEASING NEGATIVITY** – *Judith Sugg, Ph.D.*

Almost all of us struggle with letting go of negatives in our life, whether they show up as resentment, disappointment, anger, sadness, or fear. As seekers, many of us feel bad or guilty when our thoughts are less than kind, and behaviors are less than our ideal. The Yoga Sutras teaches about personal mindtraps, the noise in our head, but it also talks about the human condition -- the problems and identity confusion common to all humans. This talk looks at the art and some of the tools of letting go, putting negativity into a spiritual perspective, and how all of this supports human evolution.

Judith Sugg, Ph.D. is interested in the intersection of psychology and yoga and meditation. She has been teaching hatha yoga and meditation for over 20 years. In her dissertation, she compared the Yoga Sutras and Sankhya Karikas from a western psychological perspective. She is a licensed counselor, trainer, and adjunct instructor in psychology. Judy is a long-time member of the Theosophical Society.

November 20 **GISELLE, OU LES WILIS: COMMUNION WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD AND REDEMPTION THROUGH LOVE** – *Zoé Austin*

Giselle, the exemplary ballet of the European Romantic era, portrays the richly evolving relationship between a young peasant woman’s spirit and a royal count whose heedless deception precipitated her death. Spurred as a reaction to the rationalism of the Enlightenment period, Romanticism valued the mysterious, the emotions, and the imagination where the living and the spirit world met.

Zoé Austin trained in classical ballet at the National Ballet School in Washington, DC, at Jacob’s Pillow, and at the Royal Ballet School in London where she was awarded the Three-Year Teachers’ Diploma by Dame Ninette De Valois. She studied Russian ballet technique with former master teachers of the Bolshoi Ballet and participated in Russian ballet pedagogy conferences at the Vaganova Ballet Academy in Saint Petersburg, Russia on four occasions. Ms. Austin holds a degree in Physical Therapy from the UC San Francisco, and an MA in French from Middlebury College.

November 27 Library closed for Thanksgiving Holiday. No public program.

December 4 **Basic Concepts of Theosophy – KARMA** – Group Study

A study of karma would suggest that nothing happens by chance. Join us for a group discussion of how Theosophy explains karma as the impersonal law of cause and effect in our individual lives as well as at such broader levels as family karma and national karma.

December 18 through January 1 - Library closed for the holidays. No public programs.

January 8 **Basic Concepts of Theosophy – REINCARNATION** – Group Study

Theosophy tells us that reincarnation is the means for the evolution of consciousness, with the ultimate flowering of each individual into a perfected being who graduates from the school of human life. Why don't we remember our past lives? How do our past lives affect us today? Our group discussion will cover these and other questions.

January 15 **THE ART OF DYING** – *Christine Maitland, Ph.D.*

How can death be practiced? No one has returned from the experience to guide us, although there are people who report near death experiences. What is death? Is there anything that survives it? These questions have intrigued thinkers of all times. There are many ideas and beliefs about the afterlife, i.e. eternal life in heaven/hell, reincarnation, nothing at the end of physical life. There are guides to practice dying: a practice of separating the soul (mind) from the body; Plato's *Phaedo*, a dialogue about death and rebirth; the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*, an account of the 49 days of afterlife to rebirth; Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, who studied the stages of death; and the deaths of some of the meditation masters.

Christine Maitland, Ph.D., taught philosophy classes for a decade including, *The Philosophy of Death and Dying*.

January 22 **REFLEXOLOGY** – *Steve Herrington*

Join us for an introduction to the highly accessible healing art of Reflexology – through which deep healing can be indirectly triggered in specific areas throughout one's body by massage of specific areas of the feet and other 'end-points' of the body, such as the hands and ears. In a manner somewhat similar to therapeutic modalities such as acupuncture or Shiatsu, Reflexology's effectiveness is based upon the bio-holographic interconnection of all of the cells of the body, since they are all ultimately geometric extensions of the one core cell that since conception has grown to a fetus, baby, teenager and adult version of our human forms. We'll look a little at the bio-holographic nature of our bodies as well as exploring the basic Reflexology 'map' of the soles of our feet – and may even try some applied Reflexology on our feet – so you may want to be sure and wear clean socks in case you'd like to participate.

Ear reflexology or 'Auriculotherapy' will also be briefly explored and, if time allows, similar healing modalities such as Body Electronics and Applied Kinesiology. Follow your feet here and then get to know them better through a Reflexology adventure!

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

This is the end of the first half of this season's programs.

The program for next spring will be distributed in January.

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.

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LOCATION:

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

LIBRARY HOURS:

Fridays 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (beginning September 16, 2016)
Sundays 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (beginning September 18, 2016)
(but closed from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. during Sunday public programs)
The library will be closed on Sundays following major holidays.

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

ONLINE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA

Listed below are just a few of the programs available online. Log on at www.theosophical.org and look for programs on the home page and also under the Programs tab.

Walking the Theosophical Path Online Group with Pablo Sender
Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Central Time [8:30-9:30 a.m. Pacific Time]

Friday Online Gurdjieff Study Group
Fridays weekly ongoing, 10:00-11:15 a.m. Central Time [8:00-9:15 a.m. Pacific Time]

The Dream Circle: An Online Dream Study Group
Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Central Time [10:30-11:30 a.m. Pacific Time]

Meditation Practices and Perspectives
Sundays weekly, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Central Time [7:30-8:30 a.m. Pacific Time]

The Fourth Way: The Experiential Psychology of Spiritual Transformation
Mondays weekly ongoing, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Central Time [4:30-6:30 p.m. Pacific Time]

The Theosophical Teachings of Sri Madhava Ashish
Mondays weekly ongoing, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Central Time [7:00-8:00 a.m. Pacific Time]

Nisargadatta Advaita Study Group
Mondays weekly, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Central Time [10:30-11:45 a.m. Pacific Time]