The THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
in Springfield, MA & Hartford/Meriden, CT

Issue No. 28
January 2014

The Valley Theosophist

Join us *Sunday, May 4, 2014 @ 2:00 p.m. at the Bellamy House for a guest presentation by Kurt Leland on his new book:*

INVISIBLE WORLDS

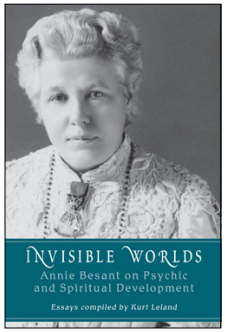
Annie Besant on Psychic and Spiritual Development

Annie Besant (1847–1933) was an outspoken feminist, political activist and longtime president of the Theosophical Society. She was also an ardent advocate of psychic and spiritual development. In *Invisible Worlds: Annie Besant on Psychic and Spiritual Development*, consciousness researcher and Besant expert Kurt Leland has collected 16 of Besant's articles, lectures and pamphlets that provide guidelines for the pursuit of such development, which Besant felt should be available to all.

The aim of such training was to enable us to rise to the spiritual plane where we might be taught by highly evolved beings—sometimes called "the Masters." Besant believed she had accomplished this goal for herself, that it changed her life in positive ways, and that with a proper understanding of the process, others could achieve the same goal.

Invisible Worlds provides authoritative texts, made readable and relevant to a contemporary audience of spiritual seekers, with copious annotation and a study guide that suggests possibilities for further exploration of Theosophical literature on psychic and spiritual development. Besant's writings are divided into four parts—Occultism Light and Dark, Higher Life Training, the Investigation of Different Worlds, and the Science of the Superphysical.

Although penned a century ago, Besant's wisdom on the subject is still germane. Her prose is clear and inspiring, and Kurt Leland's introduction and notes are well-informed. (*See Kurt Leland's bio next page).*



INVISIBLE WORLDS:
ANNIE BESANT ON PSYCHIC AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
Compiled by Kurt Leland
Quest Books, November 2013
$28.95 paper / Also available as an E-Book

The Valley Theosophist is the official newsletter of the:

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN SPRINGFIELD, MA
Phone: 413-594-5656
Email: theosmail@charter.net

HARTFORD / MERIDEN STUDY CENTER
Phone: 860-295-9837
Email: superchipower@yahoo.co.uk

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN SPRINGFIELD

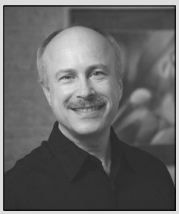
Edward Bellamy House, 93 Church Street, Chicopee, MA , 413-594-5656

Meeting Information

The Springfield Lodge office and library are located at 93 Church Street in the Edward Bellamy House in Chicopee, MA. The library and office are open on meeting dates. Additional hours are on 1st Wednesdays 6-8 pm and by appointment. For schedule changes or more information about programs, call the lodge at 413-594-5656 or contact Will Thayer at: WRThayer@aol.com or 413-783-3113.

Schedule 2014

Friday, January 10	"Wisdom, Knowledge & Belief"
Monday, January 20	"The Voice of the Silence" (Papers 8 , 9)
Friday, February 7	Looking at the Stars: Astrology 2014
Monday, February 17	"The Voice of the Silence" (Papers 10, 11)
Friday, March 7	"The Living Matrix"
Monday, March 17	"The Voice of the Silence" (Papers 12, 13)
Friday, April 4	"Samsara"
Monday, April 21	"The Voice of the Silence" (Papers 14, 15)
Friday, May 2	"The Mystery of Consciousness"
SUNDAY, May 4	"Invisible Worlds – Annie Besant on Psychic & Spiritual Development" Public program: Guest presentation by Kurt Leland*
Monday, May 19	"The Voice of the Silence" (Papers 16, 17)
Friday, June 6	"The Obligatory Pilgrimage"
Monday, June 16	"The Voice of the Silence" (Papers 18, 19)



***KURT LELAND** has been fascinated with the possibilities of consciousness since he had his first astral projection experiences at age 14. He has researched such experiences for many years through personal exploration and the writings of contemporary authors such as Robert Monroe (Journeys Out of the Body, Far Journeys) and Jane Roberts (The Seth Material, Seth Speaks); cross-cultural studies of The Egyptian and Tibetan Books of the Dead and various Hindu and Buddhist sacred texts; and ancient and modern accounts and theories of dreams, shamanic journeys, and near-death experiences.

In 2005, he came across Annie Besant's *Man and His Bodies*. He began a course of deep reading in Theosophy, including the writings of Annie Besant and Charles W. Leadbeater and the major works of H. P. Blavatsky.

This exposure to Theosophy gave Leland tools for teaching others how to safely explore their subtle bodies and the consciousness phenomena associated with them, which are not limited to astral projection.

Deeply impressed with Besant's teachings, he dedicated a portion of his website to a comprehensive bibliography of her 600 plus books, pamphlets, and articles called "The Annie Besant Shrine," including links to locations where many of these texts may be read online.

Leland is also an award-winning poet and composer, and author of five nonfiction books. He maintains an intuitive counseling practice, Spiritual Orienteering, in the Boston area.