the THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
in Springfield MA & Hartford/Meriden CT

January 2010
No. 20

The Valley Theosophist

Public Program & Book-signing:

Occult America:
The Secret History of How Mysticism Shaped our Nation and Consciousness

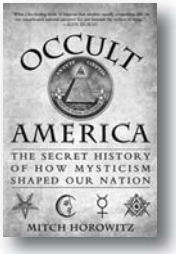
A talk by Mitch Horowitz

Sunday, March 28, 2:00 pm, Bellamy House, Chicopee

Esoteric philosophies and movements – such as Freemasonry, Transcendentalism, Spiritualism, Theosophy, and New Thought – have wielded a tremendous influence over America's past and present. From its earliest days, the nation became a laboratory for the revolutions in alternative spirituality that eventually swept the globe. Yet this aspect of our history is often ignored or overlooked. Drawing on his acclaimed new book Occult America, Mitch Horowitz reveals the metaphysical influences behind our nation's culture, politics, and spirituality. His topics include how Freemasonry touched early America; the marriage between Spiritualism and the women's rights movement; the impact of the African-American magical tradition called hoodoo; the occult roots of the "positive thinking" movement; the surprising history of the Ouija Board; and the lives of figures ranging from Mary Todd Lincoln to Franklin Roosevelt, Frederick Douglass to Joseph Smith, and Madame H.P. Blavatsky to Edgar Cayce.

No admission charge

Occult America
The Secret History of How Mysticism Shaped our Nation and Consciousness
by Mitch Horowitz
New York : Bantam, September 2009
304 pages, Hardcover, $27.00



MITCH HOROWITZ is the editor-in-chief of Tarcher-Penguin in New York and the author of *Occult America: The Secret History of How Mysticism Shaped Our Nation* (Bantam), called "a fascinating book" by Ken Burns and "extraordinary" by Deepak Chopra. Horowitz has written for U.S. News and World Report, Parabola, and the popular weblog BoingBoing. He has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning, Dateline NBC, The Montel Williams Show, The History Channel, and NPR'S All Things Considered. You can visit him online at www.MitchHorowitz.com.

The Valley Theosophist is the official organ of the:

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN SPRINGFIELD, MA
Phone: 413-594-5656 email: theos.mail@verizon.net

HARTFORD/MERIDEN STUDY CENTER
Phone: 860-649-2534

Theosophical Society~Springfield, MA

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The Springfield Lodge office and library are located in the Edward Bellamy House in Chicopee, MA (*see p. 3*). Library hours are by appointment and on:

*1st Wednesdays & 3rd Fridays....*7:00 - 7:30 pm
*2nd & 4th Thursdays.....*6 - 8 pm
*1st & 3rd Saturdays.....*11am - 2 pm

Meetings are held at 2 different locations as noted below.

In Chicopee:

1st Wednesdays: *The Pilgrim and the Path,* a study course by John Algeo, continues. Attendance at previous meetings is not required, all are welcome.

3rd Fridays: We begin a new book study with *The One True Adventure: Theosophy and the Quest for Meaning* by Joy Mills.

3rd Sundays: The library will be open from noon - 3 pm featuring *Spiritual Cinema* movies and discussion.

Sunday March 28: Public program, *Occult America* with Guest Speaker and Author, Mitch Horowitz. *See p. 1 for details.*

In Springfield

1st Fridays: The Springfield MA Branch also meets at the UU Church in Springfield, MA on 1st Fridays of the month. *See p. 4 for program.*

Quest Book Order

We will be placing a book order to TPH/Quest Books in January. If you would like to place an order through the lodge, call Allen LeCours at 413-283-3150 by January 15. Members receive a substantial discount if ordered through the Springfield Lodge.

Springfield Lodge

Chicopee, MA

Edward Bellamy House, 93 Church St., 413-594-5656

1st Wednesday Programs - 7:30 pm

January 6 February 3
March 3 April 7
May 5 June 2

3rd Sundays, 1-3 pm Spiritual Cinema

January 17 February 21
March 21 April 18
May 16 June 20

Sunday March 28, 2010, 2 pm

Occult America

Guest speaker: Mitch Horowitz
(see page 1)

3rd Friday Programs @7:30 pm

The One True Adventure

January 15
Pegg Dragon-Blumenthal (Pgs. 1-38)

February 19
Will Thayer (Pgs. 39-73)

March 19
Shirley Rodgers (Pgs. 74-104)

April 16
Dorothy Beam (Pgs. 105-140)

May 21
Helen Baxendale (Pgs. 143-180)

June 18
Joe Prologo (Pgs. 182-217)

The One True Adventure

Theosophy and the Quest for Meaning

by Joy Mills

A leading theosophical teacher offers wisdom on the greatest adventure of all, that of understanding life's meaning and achieving self-transformation.

Wheaton IL: Quest Books/Theosophical Publishing House, 2008
361 pages, $24.95

Joy Mills has been a member of The Theosophical Society since 1940. She has served as President of the Theosophical Society in America, General Secretary of the Australian Section, and International Vice-President. She has lectured in more than 50 countries, and worked as Director of the Krotona Institute of Theosophy, in Ojai, California.

Springfield Lodge

Springfield, MA

U U Society of Greater Springfield, 245 Porter Lake Dr.

2010
1st Friday Programs
7:30 pm

January 1:
NO MEETING

February 5:
The Masters
George Lagos

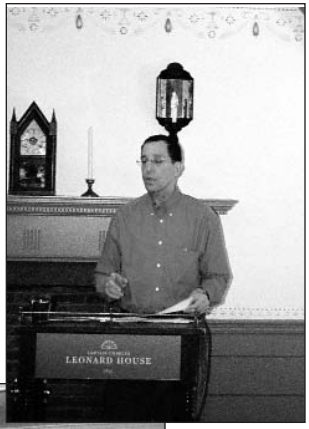
March 5:
The Red Book (*Jung*)
John O'Neill

April 2:
Quest Magazine Article
Robbie Cox

May 7:
The Torah
Will Thayer

June 4:
Spiritual Laws from a Higher Perspective (*Deepak Chopra*)
Allen LeCours

→
Death and the Beyond: Medical Investigations & Mystical Perspectives
Dr. Matthew Raider lecturing at the Capt. Leonard House. April 5, 2009
(Photo: Allen LeCours)



↓Attendees at Dr. Raider's lecture last April.
(Photo: Allen LeCours)

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The Secret of the Secret Doctrine
Michael Gomes speaking about his new abridgement of the *Secret Doctrine* at the Captain Leonard House. Nov. 15, 2009
(Photo: Mark Mueller)

Hartford / Meriden Study Center

Middletown, CT

Waters Edge Health & Rehab Center, 111 Church St.

2010 MEETING DATES ~ TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7PM

January
- 5 Mysticism: Bridge to Nowhere (Lesson XII)
- 12 Secret Doctrine study preview

February
- 23 Proem

March
- 9 Stanza I: The night of the universe
- 23 Stanza II: The idea of differentiation

April
- 20 Stanza III: The awakening of the kosmos
- 27 Stanza IV: The stingray hierarchies

May
- 11 Stanza V: Fohat: The child of the septenary Hierarchies
- 25 Stanza VI: Our world its growth and developement

June
- 8 Stanza VII: The parents of man on earth
- 22 Review of Secret Doctrine study

The Hartford/Meriden Study Center meetings are held at the Waters Edge Health and Rehab Center, 111 Church St., Middletown, CT. The group meets in the Residence Library from 7 - 9 pm on the Tuesday evenings posted (see program schedule this page).

Our winter & spring study focus will be *The Secret Doctrine*. Primarily we will use the recently published edition abridged and annotated by Michael Gomes. In addition study papers from Martin Leiderman"s Secret Doctrine workshop for the NE federation (July 2008) will be utilized.

All are welcome to attend and participate in our study and discussions. Please contact Susan O'Neill for more information, directions, or schedule changes at 860-649-2534.

The Valley Theosophist
93 Church Street
Chicopee, MA 01020-1814

The Three Objects of the Theosophical Society

To form a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity,
without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste, or color.
To encourage the comparative study of religion, philosophy, and science.
To investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in humanity.

The Theosophical Society was founded in New York City on November 17, 1875
by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, Henry Steel Olcott, William Quan Judge, and others.
The Society, now with branches in some 70 countries of the world, has had its
international headquarters and center at Adyar, Chennai (Madras), India since 1882.

www.theosophical.org www.ts–adyar.org