

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN PORTLAND

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A Branch of the Theosophical Society in America

2377 NW Kearney Street
Portland, Oregon 97210
www.theosophical.org

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PUBLIC PROGRAMS – October 2015 – January 2016

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.

Group Meditation before Sunday programs

You are invited to join in a group meditation led by a branch member on the following dates: October 18, 25; November 1, 8, 22; December 6; and January 10, from 2:30 – 2:55 p.m. All levels of interest are welcome.

Proposed Meditation Class

We are planning on organizing a weekly meditation class. If you are interested, please call Morry Secrest at 360-835-7965 or send a message to morrysec1@gmail.com.

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

October 18 Group meditation – 2:30–2:55 p.m.

October 18 **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 25 Group meditation – 2:30–2:55 p.m.

October 25 **WHAT IS PERSONALITY? CONTRASTING VIEWS FROM EAST TO WEST**
– *Judith Sugg, Ph.D.*

In western psychology, personality is defined as the patterns of thought and behavior of the individual that makes him or her unique. These patterns last over the lifetime and are resistant to change. Research tells us that we see patterns in others, even when they are not there, and we are not so good at seeing them in ourselves. However, in much of eastern philosophy and religion, personality has a very different meaning – it is what isn't really the true self, and what is not real. This interactive talk will explore the contrast, and what these differences mean for us in everyday life and in spiritual pursuits.

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

November 1 Group meditation – 2:30–2:55 p.m.

November 1 **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 8 Group meditation – 2:30–2:55 p.m.

November 8 **“WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH”** – *Linda Phelps*

The times we live in call for global thinking! In this talk, we'll look briefly at 4 global visions: (1) Conservatism, (2) Liberal Secularism/Progressivism, (3) Islamic, and (4) Spiritual (in the theosophical tradition). And we'll consider each at its highest and best level. For example, Conservatives Edmund Burke and David Brooks, not Fox News and Bill O'Reilly; Islamic thinker Mustafa Akyol, not Badhdadi of ISIS.

Each of these visions has a contribution to make! Using two simple diagrams, we'll look at that contribution as well as the basic principles and assumptions underlying each vision. And we'll briefly consider the “next step” for each vision.

This “vision project” of mine is on-going and open-ended, and limited to my own research. If you have a vision that inspires you and gets you out of bed in the morning, please bring a short written description, preferably citing a book or article I might read.

TS member *Linda Phelps* is a student of Theosophy, Alice Bailey, and Ken Wilber. She practically withers without a vision but knows first-hand that barren periods have value, too.

November 15 **“RIGHT RELATIONSHIP” FROM A SCIENTIFIC, ENERGETIC AND AGELESS WISDOM PERSPECTIVE** – *Diane McKeag*

Right relationships with ourselves and others require that we understand who we really are. Science through quantum physics has proven what mystics have said for eons – we are energy beings that manifest on earth through a physical form. We will discuss what is meant by energy and consciousness and how these new scientific understandings change the way we view ourselves, each other and the world. Evolution does not occur through random genetic mutations or survival of the fittest, but rather through conscious choices one quantum wave of possibility at a time . . .

Diane McKeag has been interested in right relationships since she graduated from college in the 70's and taught emotionally impaired children in public and private schools. She has been a Bailey student for the last 13 years and teaches “Esoteric Healing” energy classes. She is a new member of the Theosophical Society.

November 22 Group meditation – 2:30–2:55 p.m.

November 22 **LAFCADIO HEARN'S WAY OF THE KAMI** – *Patricia Fulbright*

Lafcadio Hearn, the American author who became Koizumi Yakumo, spent fourteen years living in Japan (1890-1904). He astutely observed the religious beliefs and devotions at the heart of Japanese life, and he labored to convey that essence in his eleven acclaimed books about life around him. He captured a subtle, true understanding of nineteenth-century Japanese Buddhism and Shinto, the indigenous religion. Hearn writes of Shinto as the way of the kami, the way of the gods, "the givers of life, the givers of wealth, the makers and teachers of the past of the race and all its sacrifices; whatever the living possess is from them." Hearn's famous ghost stories illuminate the many magical ways kami choose to interact with humans: sometimes to protect and provide for, or to punish and terrorize. His travel sketches describe vivid impressions of Shinto rituals in the 1890's. This presentation will focus on highlights of Hearn's writings about Shinto.

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

November 29 Library closed for Thanksgiving Holiday. No public program.

December 6 Group meditation – 2:30–2:55 p.m.

December 6 **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 13 Library open, no public program.

December 20 through January 3 - Library closed for the holidays. No public programs.

January 10 Group meditation – 2:30–2:55 p.m.

January 10 **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 17 **THE LEGENDS OF THE GRAIL** – *Paul Schofield*

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A SPECIAL LONGER PROGRAM running from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The legends concerning the Quest of the Holy Grail have fascinated people for hundreds of years. These stories have been the basis for books, movies, plays, and operas. They have been told and re-told by each new generation, as the events and characters they embody have both a timeless quality and a relevance for our own era. But where did these stories originate? Can we trace their origin to ancient India and the oldest of the Hindu scriptures? How did these stories evolve into the form in which we know them now? How did legends concerning the shamanic journeys of the Celts to the Other World become Christianized? And do these Christianized versions contain coded preservation of religious practices and beliefs condemned and suppressed by the Catholic Church?

In this program, Paul Schofield will answer all these questions, as well as others concerning the various versions of the Grail legend. He will also explain how the great story of Perceval/Parsifal differs so significantly from most of the other tales of heroes and their exploits, and why this is important for today's world.

Paul Schofield is the author of *The Redeemer Reborn: Parsifal As the Fifth Opera of Wagner's Ring* (Amadeus press, 2007). He has written and lectured extensively not only on the subject of Wagner's use of the Grail stories in his operas, but also on the Grail stories themselves.

January 24 **APPOINTMENT WITH THE WISE OLD DOG** – *73 minute video*

Join us for this beautiful film about one man's spiritual journey as he was dying from cancer. Musician David Blum's remarkable dreams, and the art he created from them, took him on a process of self-discovery which will be an inspiration to others. Blum believed that everyone has the ability to look within and find meaning in their life's journey.

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 11, 2015)
Sundays 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (beginning September 13, 2015)
(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.

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]

Fundamentals of the Fourth Way: A Reading and Discussion Group

Tuesdays weekly ongoing, 7:00-8:15 p.m. Central Time [5:00-6:15 p.m. Pacific Time]

At Home with Theosophy with Pablo Sender

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Central Time [5:00-6:00 p.m. Pacific Time]

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]

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]

Experiential Esoteric Astrology

Wednesdays, 8 weeks, Sept. 9 – Oct. 28, 8:00-9:30 p.m. Central Time, [6:00-7:30 p.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]

Meditation Practices and Perspectives

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